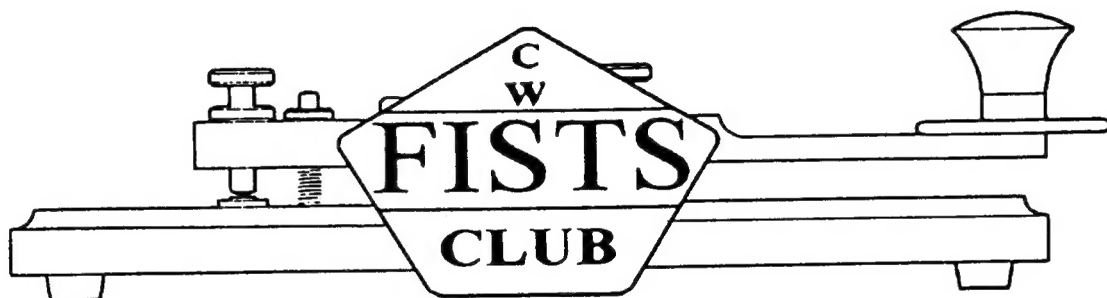


The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society

"Accuracy Transcends Speed"



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

"When You've Worked A FISTS, You've Worked A Friend"

Do you have a question? Look here first!

HOW DO I...?

***JOIN?** Membership is open to all interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions = **\$15.00/year**. Under 17 = **FREE** College Students = \$10. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge-only one newsletter is mailed per household. **Send to FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440** **NOTE: CHECKS can take 6-8 weeks to clear.** It will not take this long to get your member number, applications are processed weekly as they come in. That is just how long it MIGHT take for your check to clear. **Questions?** Write nancy@tir.com Phone number is 810-797-2033.

***RENEW?** Send **\$15/year** or \$10/year for college students (under 17 and family members are free) to **FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047.** Your renewal date is on your mailing label — please look at it!! We send out ONE renewal postcard when your renewal time is near. If you've sent in your renewal but get a reminder postcard within a few weeks, please don't be concerned, the card probably crossed with your renewal.

*** GET A NUMBER FOR MY LOCAL CLUB?** Clubs with FCC callsigns may be assigned a FISTS number at no charge providing there is at least one FISTS member in good standing in the local club. These clubs are not legally affiliated with FISTS, nor does FISTS have anything to do with how the club is run, etc. It just means the club has a FISTS number and is worth three points toward awards. If the club wants a newsletter, there is a \$15 a year charge.

***PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX MEMBER?** Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, are \$10/year American cash. Non-European (Africa, Japan, etc.) FISTS are \$15/year in US CASH. No International Money Orders, postal money orders or personal checks, cash only. Send it to Geo Longden, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs BB3 2LZ U.K. Don't forget to include the name and address of the DX ham you want to sponsor. They will receive the DX version of the Keynote, which is written and mailed by Geo.

***SEND FISTS INFO TO A DX HAM?** DX FISTS get the DX version of the newsletter. Their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send prospective DX member info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS, at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB3 2LZ England, he will get in touch with them and send them a DX application.

***SEND APPLICATION OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A North American FRIEND?** For a brochure, email Joe Pardue, w5os@arrl.net with their name, call sign, and postal address. For a sample Keynote, please send \$1 to defray postage. Joe's postal address is Joe Pardue, 29 Melrose Dr., Marrero LA 70072-5055. Applications are available for downloading on our FISTS webpage <http://www.fists.org>.

***UPDATE MY ADDRESS or CALLSIGN ON THE FISTS DATABASE?** Send corrections or changes to Nancy Kott WZ8C at FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047. Please send address labels with your corrections to the FISTS QSL Bureau so the bureau workers don't have to change all your SASEs by hand.

***GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST?** Send a SASE with \$2.00 to Ed Hayes, N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page, <http://www.fists.org>

***Get on the FISTS Email List?** For periodic Email updates send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Kathi Hilton at FISTS-Elist@comcast.net. Due to potential spam problems, the list is not given out to the membership and is not published on the web page. It is ONLY used to notify you of FISTS items of interest. If you want people to know your email address, we recommend you include it in your listing on QRZ.com or Buckmaster lookup service.

***GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BUREAU?** Send Self-Addressed-Stamped -Envelopes and FISTS member cards, for both DX and USA FISTS members, to Stan Reas, K4UK, at 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA, 24121. On your SASE's put your callsign in big letters in the top left corner. Detailed info on how to use the Bureau and a list of FISTS who do not want to receive cards via the Bureau are on the FISTS web page or available from Stan by email (k4uk@rev.net) or postal mail upon request. **KNOWCW QSL CARDS ARE BEING SENT VIA BURO to the QSL manager Karl, KB1DSB.**

***APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD?** For ALL awards, send the name of the award, a log of the required info and dupe sheet (check the individual award requirements) and your mailing info to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, 4658 Capitan Dr, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. Do not submit QSLs. There is no charge to FISTS members in good standing, but stamps are appreciated. Due to spam-All Email to Dennis must have 'cwclub' in its title or it may not be read by him.

Combo Issue 8/9, 2003

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

Nancy Kott WZ8C Editor
PO Box 47, Hadley MI 4840

Hi FISTS! A BIG hat's off to you for rising to the challenge and sending in your comments in to the FCC and the ARRL. As I'm typing this, the FCC has received over 950 comments by email (both pro and con) and unknown amounts have been received by postal mail. I have read through about 2/3 of the email comments so far, and most of the have been PRO-CODE and PRO-REQUIREMENT! It's very heartening to see that retaining standards for licensing is important to so many people. The only way the Powers That Be are going to know this is if YOU tell them. Do NOT make the mistake of assuming someone else will do it, or your voice doesn't count. We're in this together: *Standing united and being vocal is crucial.*

We can't rest on our laurels, even though we have shown more pro-code votes than anti-code. The ARRL still hasn't given their support one way or the other. They have previously voted pro-code requirement, but their abstention on the NCVEC petition vote speaks volumes. The ARRL Board of Directors is meeting in January. If you haven't contacted your Director yet, please do so and let him know how you feel.

Stand by for future Calls To Action!

We still have shirts available. Tshirts are \$5, sweatshirts are \$10, and embroidered FISTS logo polo shirts are \$14 -- for ALL sizes, small thru XXXL. PLUS POSTAGE. Tshirts are available in two different colors, royal blue and black. Sweats are gray. Polos are light blue. The tshirts/sweatshirts have I'm Proud to be a KNOW CODE Ham on the front, and the FISTS URL on the back. Polos just have the FISTS key logo tastefully embroidered on the top left side.

POSTAGE: For the first tshirt or polo add \$2.50, each additional tshirt and/or polo is \$1.00. First sweatshirt is \$4.00 each additional sweatshirt is \$2.00. So, if you ordered a tshirt, polo and sweat, it would be: \$2.00 + \$1.00 + \$4.00 = \$7.00.

You CAN use a credit card to pay through www.paypal.com, but **we're not set up to take credit cards through the mail or telephone.** If you use Paypal, please use the email address fists@tir.com as the recipient of the funds. DO NOT USE nancy@tir.com. That will deposit it into my personal account and make a big mess for me to figure out. We're using Paypal on a trial basis. If it works out without too much hassle, we will start accepting dues payments that way, too. What do you think? Would you use Paypal? The downside is that they charge a fee which comes out to about 75 cents per \$15 sent to us. That's a pretty big percentage of the dues total. But it might be worth it if it saved on renewal postcards and got more renewals in.

I'm sorry the Keynotes have been so topsy-turvy this year. There has been so much going on in my life in addition to this licensing requirement stuff. My Bouvier passed away after almost a year-long battle with osteosarcoma. The puppy we adopted in May recently died suddenly. Add that to the turmoil of getting the Petition out and all the correspondence and extra work I've had to do because of the code issue, and it's just been a madhouse here at WZ8C!

Thanks for your patience. And thanks to all the people who help doing behind the scenes work! Hopefully things will settle down for a bit before we have to brace for the next round, coming up after the ARRL meeting in January. *Nancy*

Welcome to the New FISTS, Call Changes, and Silent Keys postponed until next month.

Support Our Troops!

call changes - I had a mailbox crash and lost the call changes I had been saving to put in this column. If you had a call change that you'd like to see in the Keynote, please email me again. Odds are it's changed on the membership roster (you can check that on the web page).

Steve, AB8CR, writes:

Dear FISTS,
I'm in Iraq with the WV Army National Guard, and have been since April 9th, and may be here until next April.

We do construction work and are called 'Engineers'.

Lightning Man

A new biography of Samuel F.B. Morse has been published by Knopf Books. *Lightning Man*, by Kenneth Silverman, is a 503 page volume, complete with several pages of historic photographs.

I sent for a new Icom 703. There is no government here to issue me a callsign, so I thought I would use my call, AB8CR/Iraq. Any advice?

This is the first major biography on Mr. Morse to be released in some time. It covers Morse's entire life from 1791 to 1872, with detailed narrative describing his life a painter, sculptor, photographer and inventor.

The military, a major at group HQ in Commo said go ahead.

The Wall Street Journal commented: "Its thorough research, measured scholarship and wonderful prose serve to illuminate, brilliantly, the *Lightning Man's* eight decades of struggle, inner turmoil and genius. It is not easy to depict - sympathetically yet realistically - so flawed and complex a character. And yet Mr. Silverman has."

73, Steve Ostaff, Co B 1092nd Eng Bn, APO AE 09331

The book lists for \$35, but can be purchased at significant discount through major booksellers such as Barnes and Noble, Borders and Amazon.com. *Karl Zuk N2KZ*

I'm sure Steve would appreciate hearing from home - especially with the holiday season coming up. I've read that the troops over there can use homemade goodies (or storebought goodies!), premoistened towelettes, paperback books, and just about anything that we take for granted here in the States.

If anyone knows of other hams who are stationed overseas, let me know and I'll do my best to get their addresses in the Keynote. Let's let our men and women in uniform know we appreciate them and are thinking of them.

From the Mailbox

Hi Nancy,

Just a few words of appreciation to you and all of those that make the FISTS CW Club work and run so well. I can only imagine how much work there is involved with a club that has grown so fast (now in the five digit membership numbers). This growth is a tribute to you and all who put so much work into it. The rest of the membership sure are the beneficiaries. A great big thank you. I would just like to make mention of a great ambassador to FISTS and that is Jack Slocum **WB2FXK**. Every time I see a list of new members, I can almost guarantee that Jack will be the sponsor of one or more on the list. Again, thanks, Ken VA3KEW.

Thanks for the kind words Ken, I appreciate it, and I'm sure all our volunteers are happy that people notice our labors of love. And there wouldn't be a FISTS without people who sponsor members. We have quite a few "Super Sponsors" and Jack is right at the top of the list!

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

This issue of the awards column is one issue later than usual due to Issue #7 being devoted to the FISTS Petition to the FCC regarding Examination Requirements. I've tried to include all those awards issued from the last list published in Issue #6 of the Keynote.

The end of summer, back to school, back to work. I guess lots of FISTS members were enjoying the summer with their families. With the months getting colder, I sure we will see more awards issued and printed in the next Keynote.

NOTE NEW AWARDS E-MAIL ADDRESS!

My e-mail address has changed and I will no longer be receiving e-mail sent to the old one. Please note the new awards e-mail address.

Fistsawards@comcast.net

NANFA Award

We have our very first NANFA Award Winner!

KELSEY KK6AW

Kelsey has earned NANFA award #1 as of 9/9/03. Congratulations to you, Sir!

I have received several other e-mails from members stating that they are very, very close to achieving the NANFA award. Even though this is a very tough award to get, it is fun to do and it gives one the incentive to get on the air and make contacts with club members. Good Luck to one and all . . .

Late Awards in October

My thanks to one and all for being very patient and understanding for the late mailing of awards in late September up to the middle of October. I was away visiting my daughter in Germany for three weeks and came back home to a real pile

of FISTS awards mail and e-mails. It took me a few days to sort everything out and get the awards on their way. Again, thanks for your patience.

2004 Guidelines for Award Applications

Checking over award applications / logs can sometimes be a difficult task. Each person has their own way of keeping a log and entering the data for each QSO. I've been trying to standardize the FISTS award log requirements so as to make checking logs easier and faster. If all club members would please follow the Guidelines set forth below, I can continue to maintain the one to two day turn around for FISTS awards. After the first of the year (2004) I will return any and all logs that do not follow these Guidelines.

Below are a few Guidelines for submitting an award log (paper and e-mail) for a FISTS award.

For E-Mail Logs:

1. Only files accepted are Word, Excel, and Text. (NO Microsoft Works.)
2. NO formatting in your log files such as; Borders, Color Text, Tables, Special Fonts, etc.
3. One log submitted for each award with ALL contacts shown for that award.
4. NO Scanned log sheets will be accepted, that means NO scanned images pasted into Word or Excel documents will be accepted either. Only logs with editable text are acceptable.
5. All QSO's listed in a single column. No multiple columns in Word.
6. A SINGLE TAB between data fields of a QSO. NO SPACES. Example:
CALL(TAB)DATE(TAB)BAND(TAB)FISTS
#(TAB)POINTS
Place ONLY one TAB character for each "(TAB)" in the example above. I do not care if the data lines up in nice little columns are not, just ONE TAB ONLY please.
7. Only data needed in logs is as follows:
Century Series Awards — Call, Date, Band, FISTS #, Points
Platinum Series Awards — Call, Date, Band, CC number (NO Points needed for these awards.)

8. Include your Name, Call, FISTS #, and Address with each log and Indicate the Award you are applying for.

9. Dupe Check Sheet NOT required for logs sent via e-mail.

10. Dupe check your log BEFORE sending it to me. Logs with excessive Dupes will be returned and not processed for your award.

For Paper Logs:

1. A Dupe Check Sheet is required for ALL logs submitted with over 100 contacts listed. ONLY FISTS numbers are to be used on the Dupe Check Sheet NOT Call Signs. FISTS numbers are used so to eliminate number Dupes when call signs are changed.

2. Send ONLY a copy of your award log, NOT your Original Log. (Some original logs have been lost in the mail.)

3. One log for each award applied for with ALL contacts needed for that award.

4. DO NOT send a copy of your entire log with FISTS contacts highlighted. Send ONLY the data needed for the award log.

5. Please DO NOT send any checks made out in my name or FISTS CW Club. I do not have access to any FISTS bank accounts and cannot cash them. Stamps are appreciated to help with award mail.

6. Please include a note if you want your log returned to you. I DO NOT keep paper logs nor will I return them to you unless you ask me to do so. Please include postage to return your log.

7. Only data needed in logs is as follows:
Century Series Awards — Call, Date, Band, FISTS #, Points

Platinum Series Awards — Call, Date, Band, CC number (NO Points needed for these awards.)

8. Include your Name, Call, FISTS #, and Address with each log and Indicate the Award you are applying for.

9. Dupe check your log BEFORE sending it to me. That's the purpose of the Dupe Check Sheet. Logs with excessive Dupes will be returned and not processed for your award.

Following these Guidelines will help me to give you faster service and a quick turn around time for your award certificates.

Thanks, and keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands . . . 73, Dennis K6DF

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AWARDS ISSUED - July 23, 2003 to Oct 21, 2003

NANFA Award

KK6AW

Basic Century (CC)

AA4NO	
AC9BP	
GØWKW	VE2PID
G3VDV	VK3CGB
K1RMF	WØLGU
K2RP	WØMHZ
K5CFA	W1AW
K5FFF	W3JGG
K5GGG	W4FFF
K5NT	W4GGM
K6GVG	W5CFN
K6NOF	W5TA
KB6R	W7OJT
KCØOFK	W8LJ
KC2HMM	W9LHG
KC8VC	WA4BAM
KD4LRP	WA5ZJK
KD7CJV	WB8C
KF1G	WD4HWO
KG4MMY	WM4U
KO4OL	ZL2ASQ
M0CMQ	
N8UW	
PA7XG	

Silver Century

AA7VW	KD5MDO	VA3AVP
G4UIQ	KG4NNN	VE2PID
K2QJ	KK6AW	WØTUP
KB1EKD	N3ZPO	W9ISC
	N4FI	WA8SME

Gold Century

AK7O
KK4DW
KK6AW
W4WDA
WA9PDS
WY7W

Diamond Century

I2VRF
KG9LZ
ON6ZJ
RX3AP
W7PFZ
WA2BQI
WBØZES

1 X QRP

WA9PDS
WB2BQI

Platinum Award

AA7VW
AC9BP
G4PRL
G4UIQ
K2QJ
K4REB
KA9F
KD5MDO

Platinum cont...

KH6HHS
KR3I
N4FI
VA3AVP
WØTUP
W1ZOO
W9ISC
WA8SME

Platinum 250 Award

KK4DW
KK6AW
N3PM

Platinum 500 Award

AA1KS
WD8OCV
WSØL

RCC Award

WA9PDS

Worked All States (FISTS)

K4REB
KK6AW
WØTUP
WB7RHT

DX was WL7WH. I did hear WP4IZQ but no reply after several calls. Rig was Kenwood TS 440S, Ten Tec Model 605 keyer and a Hustler mobile antenna atop the Blazer in the yard outside the cabin. Hopefully there will be another trip before the year is out. Jim K9JXW

More From the Mailbag

Dear Nancy,

Just left a wonderful port visit in Freemantle/Perth Australia. I was aboard the USS Constellation on the way back from Iraqi Freedom and decided to contact the FISTS CW Club "Down Under" as we approach Australia.

They promptly sent me the e-mail addresses of three members in Perth. I had lunch with Harris VK6AV who was heading for Dayton this year, and spent a day with Alan VK6PG. Because I was able to get reciprocal license I became VK6GG for a few days and Alan let me work a few hours on his great set up. I made several FISTS contacts in Australia, New Zealand, England, and even the USA on 20 meters.

My first contact was with Stan ZL2BLQ who I had worked regularly with 5 watts to a dipole when back home in San Diego, and I was also able to work Stan K4UK our faithful QSO manager.

The hospitality was great and Alan and his wife took me to the local food court where I was able to dine on a barbecued lamb sandwich, and meet a fellow ham friend of Alan's.

Even with a beam and a computer controlled rotator, making contacts when you are down under isn't the easiest thing to do. The distances are so great that signals are not as plentiful as we are used to in the states.

If you happen to be listening real well you might hear one of our friends from Australia and New Zealand and I know they will be listening for you! 73 de Tim
AE6GL/VK6GG FISTS #4130

Labor Day Weekend Trip K9JXW

Thanks to everyone who QSO'd me this past Labor Day weekend while I was on a fishing trip near Emo, Ontario, Canada (Off Lake) with my two sons. Fishing was very good and we had a great time. Operation was limited to when I was preparing meals (rig in the kitchen), nap/down time, and when we returned in the evening before bed. Static conditions were pretty rough (two huge night thunder and lightning storms where we lost power) which didn't allow much 40 meter operation, but 20 meters was good. In all I worked 63 FISTS and several non-FISTS. Best

QRP with K3WWP - Column # 60. A couple of issues ago in one of my many columns that dealt with answering your questions, I answered a question from Paul Davis, AC7QG. I was sad to hear that Paul was killed in a plane crash around the time of publication of that column. My sympathies to Paul's family and friends. I only knew Paul from a few email exchanges and the QSO we had on 80M to give me Idaho on that band toward my 80M QRP WAS. However, I quickly got the impression that Paul was a true gentleman and I know he will be missed.

I have decided to drop my qsl.net web site. By the time you receive this column, all the material on qsl.net will have been removed. You'll have to go to <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan/> if you wish to visit my web site. **This was done to lessen my work load a bit and also because I was not happy with the all too frequent interruptions of service on qsl.net.**

While not strictly a QRP matter, those of us who love Morse Code are now involved in a real battle to save Morse on the ham bands. Please be sure to read all the material in the other parts of this Keynote and take what action you feel appropriate.

Come to think of it, perhaps the Morse situation is a QRP issue since CW is the mode of choice for the vast majority of QRPers. I doubt that the accomplishments made with CW and QRP could not be done with other modes.

Keeping in mind that I only use simple wire antennas which are either in my attic or mounted on the outside of my house, I would like to list some of the things I've accomplished with CW and QRP over the past 10 years. It's the extreme efficiency of CW that made these things possible along with the skill of the CW operators on both ends of the QSO's. This skill could be lost to ham radio if the no-code activists get their way as they seem to be in many parts of the world. That could spell disaster in the event of a national emergency that would have to rely on amateur radio for communications.

Anyway, I've made at least one QRP CW QSO each day since August 5, 1994. This has come to be known by many hams simply as 'the Streak'. As of Aug 31, 2003 the streak stood at 3,314 days and 37,733 QSO's with 11,428 of the QSO's being DX (non-W/VE). The QSO's were with 12,543 different hams according to unique call signs in my log.

I've worked 202 countries or DX Entities as they are called nowadays. All 50 states are in my log many times over. In fact the least worked state is Wyoming with 32 QSO's. Obviously all continents have been worked many many times over with Oceania at the bottom with 141 QSO's.

I've won many contests and have many award certificates for my victories which have come at the ARRL section, state, ARRL division, and even country level. One of the contest results I am really proud of is finishing 2nd place overall in the world regardless of category in the Florida QSO party a few years ago. I didn't really get any award from those results however, except for overall QRP winner since the #1 score in the world also came from Western Pennsylvania.

That's just a rough idea of how well CW and QRP work together. I wonder if such things could have been done using a similar setup, but with SSB instead of CW. I doubt it. When the going gets tough, CW will get things going, to paraphrase a common saying.

Let's cover a few of your questions now as space permits.

Dick Burke asks "What is 30 at the end of your pieces?" 30 is a signal just like 73, 88 and other numerical signals. It means 'finished' or 'the end'. It was (is) used mostly by press telegraphers and you sometimes see it at the end of old newspaper articles. Also something I've found interesting is that if you use the American Morse (the Morse that was used widely for railroad, landline, press, etc.) code symbols for 3 (...- . or 3 dits, a dah and a dit if those little periods are hard to see) and 0 (a long dash) and combine

them they turn out to be almost exactly the same as SK in the Continental Morse code we commonly use on the ham bands to mean 'end of transmission' And -30- was also the title of a movie starring Jack Webb about the newspaper business. See <http://www.imdb.com/Details?0052526>

Mike, N4VBV suggests I provide some information about how the different bands worked at various times under different circumstances such as solar flares, CME's, etc. during my streak. Well my answer to that could grow to fill a whole Keynote so I'll only answer briefly here. First of all I think my columns a few issues ago describing how QRP works on each of the ham bands already contains much of what I would say in my answer. Secondly another broad statement is that I have found that effects from flares, CME's, etc. never completely wiped out communications on the HF bands for a full 24 hour period (at least for us CW operators). Such complete blackouts generally lasted only a few hours at most which left me lots of time each day to get my daily QSO(s). When such events did happen, I found that 40M generally would be the band that would recover most quickly either because of its location in the spectrum or being the most used of the HF CW bands most of the time. I never had a single day in my streak that I had any difficulty getting in my QSO, although I did have to wait through some bad conditions on a few of the days along the way. Perhaps I'll analyze my log and give a more detailed specific answer in a future column.

I'll cut this column a bit short because there is so much important Morse/FCC material this issue. Remember my web site changes mentioned at the beginning of the column. Email me at johnshan@alltel.net or regular mail at John Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304. Till next time, 73. -30-

**SIGN UP TO OPERATE KN0WCW
IN 2004!!**

**Contact Dennis K6DF
fistsawards@comcast.net**

Comments from KN0WCW operators

From Darron WA5TCZ: This was a very good experience and at times very frustrating with QRM, QRN and QSB, hi hi! Now I know how DX stations feel when the masses come back to them. I will think about it and may take another crack at running the call again. I would like to know the total contacts of the other KN0WCW ops; each person's total.

Darron, we will try to have some statistics at the end of the year for KN0WCW. I know that there are a lot of contacts being made; the logs and QSL and certificates are keeping Kurt, Stan, Dennis and me hopping! -- WZ8C

From Dee, KD5MDO: I had so much fun operating the club call despite two power outages and lightning storms here every afternoon when I was ready to transmit - Murphy's Law! What fun! I will have to do it again next year.

From Chuck (Bronson MO): It was great fun, went 5 to 500 watts and QRS to QRQ. Luckily, the power outage did not hit my Dayton QTH, but I think a lot of east coast hams were QRT. Thanks for all the great work you are doing helping us keep CW active.

From Dave N1PT: I had lots of fun working the club station after I got a few kinds worked out, like not giving them my FISTS number and not going back to them with my regular callsign. It was also an honor to be the first to use the KN0WCW call. I started with the KC8VIO call before the vanity call was issued. Twenty meters was definitely the best for me and between 4 and 8 PM seemed to draw the most activity. Most of my contacts didn't realize I was a special Club station until I reminded them to look at their newsletter or the web site. Many of them wanted to know how I was lucky enough to get assigned the FISTS number 10,000. My toughest QSO was the one from the Canary Islands but Joe just wouldn't give up and I finally got him in the log. My best QSO was with KA3TNS who I gave a 449 report. He was working me with 1 watt from an antenna in his attic. Way to go, John! Restrictive ordinances will never hold you down.

From David W8III: Could have worked more but the testers took over the bands on Saturday.

From Conrad W3AMN: My station in Bethlehem, PA consists of an Elecraft K2, antennas are a 135' dipole fed with 450 ohm ladderline for 80,40,30 and 20 meters and a vertical for 15 and 10 meters.

From Don WD8CV: Nancy, Just a line to let u know I received the Award for using the Fists call sign. Had a ball & would do it agn. nice award, will get a frame to hang in shack with others.

Mini-reviews of Boat Anchor radio books

By Paul WA9PWP FISTS 2153

Well I don't own any boat anchor ham gear but I have been licensed long enough to appreciate it, so here are "mini reviews" of current books about old ham gear:

"A Pictorial History of Collins Amateur Radio Equipment" by Jay Miller KK5IM. Jay had previously published "A Pocket Guide to Collins Amateur Radio Equipment." In this book he fleshes out the stories of the highly intelligent and forward-thinking Art Collins W0CXX and the people who worked for him. The story of the development of Collins gear is accompanied by many very nice company pictures and pictures from private collections. It is obvious Jay was very thorough in his research. The appendix includes charts of top Collins dealers, annual sales totals, and amateur/military gear cross references. Paperback, 177 pages, a must for Collins fans!

"The R.L.Drake Story a Family Affair" by John Loughmiller KB9AT. John had access to many of the key players from the ham radio years of

R.L.Drake. He wrote very convincingly about Bob Drake and his company, which he regarded as his extended family. Some good plant and advertising photos from the Drake archives, but mostly large type text. Paperback, 242 pages but the last 140 pages are tech tips and modifications for Drake gear, so they were not of interest to me! So for me it was a 102 page book. Appendix A show sales flyers or spec sheets of all the Drake ham gear, and Appendix B shows pictures of present-day Drake ham stations. Here you will find our own Mike N9BOR FISTS 4594!

"Radios by Hallicrafters" by Chuck Dachis. It seems Chuck has spent a lifetime researching, gathering materials, collecting and restoring old Hallicrafters. The book lists each radio (receiver, transmitter, commercial, SWL) made by Bill Halligan's company, with a picture, specs, features, original selling price (if known) and current value. Even Hallicrafters TV receivers are covered! There are a few historical photos and pictures of company promotional items and ads. Most of the company records were destroyed years ago, but Chuck manages to "take you back" through the pictures he does have. Paperback, 230 pages, a must for hallicrafters fans!

"Heathkit A Guide to Amateur Radio Products" by Chuck Penson WA7ZZE. Chuck has been a fan of the "green rigs" for years, he collects and apparently restores them also. There is a short section on the history of the Heath Company, a section on buying and collecting, and then the "meat" of the book, at least one page devoted to every Heath amateur product made, with a picture, years of production, and original selling price, and comments on that product. There is a short appendix listing Heath articles and fixes from CQ and QST magazines. Paperback, 245 pages, a great reference! A second edition has recently been published, I can't imagine what he could have added!

Fill Your Batteries With Sunshine

by David - WA9PDS

Solar-power adds a new dimension to CW operations for some hams.

My new solar energy system gives me an endless supply of power for CW QRP at home and in the field. Though modest in size, all components can be carried into the field, on camping trips, to parks, Field Day or your back yard. The system consists of two 10-watt solar panels, charge controller and gel cells. And it's a snap to set up.

Designed for low-power operation, the panels and controller generate enough energy to power all my QRP rigs for several hours. I keep at least one extra gel cell fully charged to operate in the shack. While operating outdoors, I hook up the system to my radio. This arrangement allows the sun to generate power for the radio AND charge the battery.

Setting up for field ops takes about two minutes not counting time to rig an antenna. The panels are encased in epoxy and attached to a folding, nylon, zippered enclosure. This little bundle, log, notebook, a few miscellaneous tools, VOM, pens, pencils all fit nicely in a standard briefcase. A small QRP rig, battery, charge controller, key, headphones, tuner and antenna slipped into a second briefcase or bag rounds out the portable station.

My "Station in Two Bags" is also ideal for emergency communications.

Perfectly at home with sun - partial or full — my system is not water-proof. So, it cannot remain outside during inclement weather. By Spring 2004, I plan to have a larger capacity solar panel permanently installed outside with the controller inside the house charging a MUCH larger battery. This should allow me to power all QRP rigs, the VHF and UHF and allow for limited operation at about 50 watts on my FT-920. This portable system will still serve me in the field.

Bill Milligan, K4BX and FISTS #4488 has been my mentor/Elmer in learning about and using solar power. He has been using solar power for his CW QRP ops for at least 2 years. I drive him nuts with questions, which he patiently answers. He uses a HUGE battery and always has plenty of stored energy.

Before buying the solar power system, I spent many hours on the internet. I read books, magazine articles, anything I could find on the subject. Learned a great deal about other uses of solar power.

For inquiring minds who love learning new ways to enjoy ham radio now is our chance.

Try solar power. It gives new meaning to the phrase "catching some rays".



The Author David - WA9PDS and his solar station

**HAVE FUN!
GET INVOLVED!
OPERATE KNOWCW
IN 2004!
IT'S EASY!
CONTACT DENNIS
K6DF
FISTS.AWARDS.COMCAST.NET
OR POSTAL ADDRESS
ON THE
HOW DO I...PAGES.**

FISTS Summer Sprint, 2003 Results By Sprint Manager Dan N8IE

Hello all, The bands seemed to be better but still not that great. We still had a great showing, and again very happy to see all the new 5 digit FISTS numbers. Hope you all had fun! See you all on the air!

QRO Category

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>FISTS#</u>	<u>Total</u>
K4IA	Buck	6702	Va	12789
WB0PYF	Ray	7986	Mo	8554
KN9X	Dan	8671	Il	8528
KC0M	Larry	2528	Mo	8257
AD6XI	Josh	9341	Ca	7425
K8IJ	Chas	8096	Ky	4972
WB2FXK	Jack	918	Ny	4494
WB7RHT	Bruce	8618	Ca	4320
K7CS	Don	9164	Va	3825
K8NVR	Ed	3485	Oh	3485
AA8R	Randy	10179	Mi	2805
KO4OL	Glenn	6583	Ky	2506
W1EEP	Cliff	9208	Ma	2055
N1PT	Dave	2560	Nh	1856
KG4CNZ	Robert	8142	Ky	1712
K0LWV	Larry	2589	Mo	1680
W0CGV	John	9366	Co	1586
W3JGG	Justin	9980	Fl	1540
K8VFR	Rosemarie	5602	Mi	1380
KF4AAF	Chris	5480	Fl	1320
WA1ZCB	Edmond	8203	Ma	1260
K4YFH	Jimmy	8707	Nc	1140
W3NGO	Dick	4016	Pa	792
KS0M	Dick	3067	Mo	770
N0IBT	David	3987	Co	750
AE2L	Joshua	1912	Nc	650
VE7NS	Ron	9151	BC	585
WB2WGX/3	Richard	6853	Pa	440
AA3II	Gerald	9746	Pa	420
WB0B	Larry	2916	Ia	350
K8JD	John	3853	Mi	350
W8KYD	Ron	10121	Oh	300
K6QWH	Howard	7570	Az	294
KG4MMY	Greg	8646	Al	245
KA2HDO	Horace	8169	Ny	200
W4DNZ	Phil	4269	Tn	175
N2GT	Sterling9960	Nj	140	
KG9LZ	Tom	5769	Il	80
W4GNS	Gary	9426	Va	24
W3TZW	Roy	3205	Pa	20

QRP Category

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>FISTS#</u>	<u>Total</u>
WB6HGJ	Guy	9909	Ca	6027
KW3F	Bob	10140	Pa	1265
W5KDJ	Wayne	10060	Tx	1200
WA5ZJK	Glenn	4978	Tx	1105
K0MAX	Maxwell	9134	Mn	770
WB8KQJ	Kenneth	1907	Oh	670
KM5P	Kyle	7097	Nm	600
N2EZY	David	7543	Ny	270
K7RRR	Dick	5448	Az	30

Club Category

<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>SPC</u>	<u>FISTS#</u>	<u>Club Name</u>	<u>Total</u>
W4FFF	Furman Nc		9700	FISTS Club of N.C.	5100
K9YA	Mike Il		9500	Robert (Bob) F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club	2240
K4UK	Stan Nc		2934	Franklin County ARC	1500
W8NCK	Chuck Oh		8200	Sandusky Valley ARC	900
W4GAC	John Fl		7875	SPARK, St. Petersburg ARC	585
KN0WCW/9	Tom Il		10000	Fists USA	150

Furman, **W4MJT**, NC FISTS #9700, FISTS Club of N.C -- Rick, N4RE made most of our contacts, but it was fun for me as well. Rick was operating portable (from his Dad's). Hopefully he will be home (Raleigh) for the C2C, and we can have some other members operating also.

Ed, **WA1ZCB**, MA FISTS #8203 -- This was my first Sprint, what a blast. Took some time to get started. I'll be ready for the Fall Sprint.

Greg, **KG4MMY**, AL FISTS #8646 -- Not a great score but made several contacts towards my WAS and Century awards!! 73

Jimmy, **K4YFH**, NC FISTS #8707 -- My first FISTS contest, nice and short. Need a QSL, go via buro.

Glenn, **KO4OL**, KY FISTS #6583 -- Conditions not great. Couldn't find an opening on 20 due to IARU contest.

Rose, **K8VFR**, MI FISTS #5602 -- FUN-FUN-FUN! The best contest!

Ray, **WB0PYF**, MO FISTS #7986 -- Band condxs were poor at my QTH. Most QSO's were on 40M during the afternoon, go figure. Still the best sponsored event on Amateur Radio. Thanks again.

Roy, **W3TZW**, PA FISTS #3205 -- Recent thunderstorm activity left a lot of heavy QRN. Radio conditions were not good on my 40 meter antenna system but I had my fun despite Mother Natures housekeeping. 73

Charles, **K8IJ**, KY FISTS #8096 -- Great fun, thanks!

Chuck, **W8NCK**, OH FISTS #8200, Sandusky Valley ARC -- Poor band conditions, local QRM, and lack of sufficient time to operate, made for a poor performance. Hopefully, we'll do better next time.

Guy, **WB6HGJ**, CA FISTS #9909 -- My first Sprint, found 20 and 15 the only useable bands. Was tough competeing against the I.A.R.U. contest at the same time! But ended up with 31 more CC

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points, had a good time. See you all in the fall. 73

Dick, **W3NGO**, PA FISTS #4016 -- The October (Fall) Sprint is overshadowed by the heavily active PA QSO Party of which I have been active for the past twenty four years. Could we move the fall FISTS Sprint to another weekend, or to November?

Richard, **WB2WGX**, PA FISTS #6853 -- Operated mobile from parking lot of Lake Erie Speedway, Erie PA. 40 watts to a Ten Tec Scout and a Hamstick antenna. Band condx were poor to start but seemed to improve. All contacts were on 40 meters.

Ron, **W8KYD**, OH FISTS #10121 -- Really a pleasureable test in meeting other FISTS members. Aside from the normal contest info, the side comments were appreciated, especially being a new-comer! as a suggestion, entry class for those using vintage tube gear. Just a thought from a OT with a love of CW from the early 50's! 73, Ron

Larry, **WB0B**, IA FISTS #2916 -- In my occupation bad weather causes me to work overtime. Because of the extra work, I missed all but the last hour of this Sprint. Being tired I almost did not get on the air at all. But, I remembered the past Sprints where I had a high score thanks to some FISTS who got on the air just for a few contacts. So, I got on the air for the time left. Sent my score in too. Why? So new FISTS can see activity from states they need for FISTS WAS. Also, for the stations who had high scores can see stations they missed and they can sharpen their skills for the next Sprint.

John, **W0CGV**, CO FISTS #9366 -- Good chance to renew old friendships and to make some new ones.

John, **K8JD**, MI FISTS #3853 -- Got a late start but had some fun. 40M was not too hot but 20M had some DX contest going on and I did not try any QSO's there. 73, John

Howard, **K6QWH**, AZ FISTS #7570 -- My grandkids came down from CO so I had to visit with them. Better next time, still fun at 84!

Don, **K7CS**, VA FISTS #9164 -- First time for this contest. 20M was very POOR. Mostly confined to 40M. Couldn't get those QSO's and multipliers. 73, Don

Sterling, **N2GT**, NJ FISTS #9960 -- My first Sprint with FISTS. Enjoyed it very much. Hope to spend more time operating in next one.

Dick, **K7RRR**, AZ FISTS #5448 -- With poor band condx my QRP sig was hard to hear. Maybe next Sprint more will use 10 meters. I was not going to submit such a low score but at least wanted to show I tried. Tnx and 73

Horace, **KA2HDO**, NY FISTS # 8169 -- Very poor band conditions.

Ron, **VE7NS**, B.C. FISTS #9151 -- Band conditions were very poor.

Jack, **WB2FXK**, NY FISTS #918 -- Sprint came at good time. I'm getting over a operation so have to take it easy. No better way than on the radio. HI Nice to see a real mix of new and old FISTS in there. Anybody get Nancy and Irene on the air? HI HI (NancyNote: I WAS THERE!!)

Buck, **K4IA**, VA FISTS #6702 -- Hard to imagine conditions worse than the Spring Sprint but we got them! Again no DX but 30 new FISTS numbers.

John, **KU4BT**, FL FISTS #7875 St. Petersburg ARC -- I almost forgot about this year's Summer Sprint, as Saturday was my birthday. Scott, **N4RI**, reminded me about it at the SPARC meeting. He is a long time CW OP who has just mailed in his FISTS application. Leslie, **WA4EEZ**, a new FIST with one of the 5 digit numbers also wanted to come out, so we agreed to meet at the club house Saturday at 12:30

A most unexpected visitor, T.R. McElroy, made our day memorable. Bob, **KC4SXO**, came by and dropped off a straight key called a Stream Key (model a-100, I think) made in 1940 that was still in the box, as he had found it at a yard sale. It's tear dropped shape, and had a letter in the box from Mr. McElroy talking about a practice oscillator that he had designed, and that was now available for \$1.80.

Well, I just had to put it on the air, after all, how often do you get to use a McElroy key right

out of the box? After a few minutes fiddling with the adjustments and cleaning the contacts, it was ready to go, and I worked KC0M with it. The gauntlet was thrown down, everybody present wanted a chance to join the McElroy club and make a contact with the straight key.

Leslie was particularly impressed and impressive, as her skill is primarily with a straight key. We had a lot of fun with that piece of Morse Code history, and it made us all reminisce about the man who still holds the world's records in the Morse Code speed categories.

This got me in the mood, and I said what the heck and pulled an old Vibroplex Champion bug down from the shelf and, after a little adjustment, went ahead and put it on the air too. After the Sprint was over, I continued to use the bug in the IARU contest.

So, we didn't log too many contacts under the club call, but Leslie did get to make her first FISTS contact and use her new number, and Scott found out what the Sprint was all about.

We used these different keys during the event: The 1940 McElroy straight key (very good looking design) the classic Champion bug, a black based Bencher, a silver based Bencher (paddles) and my Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr. mini paddles. (I used this small key for Field Day also, and it worked great.) We now have a new club, the McElroy club, and thanks to a visit from the greatest Morse man ever, we had a very memorable Summer Sprint, and I had a birthday that will be hard to forget. Thanks John Stark, KU4BT, #6215 Club W4GAC, #7875

Gerald, AA3II, PA FISTS #9746 -- Seems my DX70TH ain't what it used to be. Everyone I could get was on the same Frequency, give or take a khz. But. I called on my experience, skills and strategies, and made the 12 contacts. What do I win?

Justin, W3JGG, FL FISTS #9980 -- Had to end this one early to go to work, but had a blast...My first contesting effort. I can't wait for the next one!

Glenn, WA5ZJK, TX FISTS #4978 -- Had a great time again. Tnx to all the volunteers who make the Sprints possible. 73's de WA5ZJ

Stan, K4UK/M, NC FISTS #2934, Franklin County ARC -- I was operating mobile on my way back from Burlington, NC where we had attended a wedding. One of these times I am going to operate the FULL four hours of a Sprint. Unfortunately it WON'T be the Fall Spring because I will be operating mobile in the PA QSO Party. 73, Stan - K4UK

KC0M, Larry, MO FISTS #2528 -- Good time, and I sure appreciate the time you coordinators spend on this contest.

AA8R, Randy, MI FISTS #10179 -- This was my 1st sprint. Looking forward to the next one.

KG9LZ, Tom, IL FISTS #5769 -- There was a G3 Geomagnetic storm before the Summer Sprint, so the fact that we had fair conditions could be seen as a sign from above. Also the IARU International contest ran concurrently, but they made room for us. Thanks for the new contacts, and will be looking forward to next time.

W5KDJ, Wayne, TX FISTS #10060 -- Ran 700MW entire contest. Nice contest but not the turn-out as in the Spring Sprint.

K9YA, Mike, IL FISTS #9500, Robert (Bob) F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club -- K9PL & N9BOR operators. Very poor band conditions caused us to QRT early. Club web site: <http://www.qsl.net/k9ya>

KN9X, Dan, IL FISTS #8671 -- Poor band conditions, but still lots of fun!

KS0M, Dick, MO FISTS #3067 -- I was also in the IARU contest. But, I took the time to work these 14 calls to give some support to the FISTS group. The SPRINTS are fun and I would like to take part more often. But, without a logging program that supports a FISTS contest, this may be my last FISTS sprint. Band propagation was poor at best.

K8NVR, Ed, OH FISTS #3485 - Band condx poor. 15 Meters almost unusable. QRM problem on 20 Meters from EU. On the good side, many new FISTS members in the Sprint. I worked several 9000s and 10000s series numbers. Of my 41 contacts, 19 were new ones for me.

Coast to Coast (C2C)

From its roots in 1998 as the West Coast Triple with K7FFF, K6FFF and WA7YYY, the Third Annual Coast-to-Coast FISTS Clubs QSO Party has expanded to an amazing 56 clubs participating this year. In fact, some clubs got their numbers just days before the event started. I received e-mails from FISTS members telling me about unknown clubs who didn't know about the event. Just a week before the event, David, K8III e-mailed to say that W1AW was a club. Two hours before the start, I got an e-mail from the Redmond Top Key Contest club asking me to get a club number! Well, even I can't move that fast.

Since I can't put up antennas here at our condo anymore, Casey Bahr, KS7J invited my wife and I to spend the weekend at this place to work the contest. His lovely wife Tamara and their two children were very gracious hosts and we felt very welcome there. Perhaps we will be able to return the favor in the future.

By all accounts, the event was a bang up success. We started out right on time and were on the air for most of the time. The winner in the individual category was Bill K8FLY who outdistanced the individual FISTS members with 1911 points. Some of Bill's comments, "Well talk about exciting news! I knew I did well, but sure didn't ever expect to possibly get that lucky! I had a total of 55 QSOs, a few rag chews along the way from some newer members as well as a few from fellow FISTS members that I've gotten to know over the years. I have always been a rag chewer first then a FISTS member. I sure can't say enough thanks for all the clubs that took the time to participate what a growing group we are!"

One club that must have been awake all night was W4FCR, the FISTS QSL Bureau Club. Stan and his gang slammed dunked the winning club score with 41 clubs worked and 18 additional QSOs on different bands for a total of 2378. Stan, K4UK, wrote some comments on behalf of the three operators, himself, Riley, K4ORD and Bill, W4BOT.

Here are some of Stan's comments edited for brevity. "We split up the bands so that (we) operated mainly 20 Meters and...40 Meters. around 1430 UTC...after many (15M) CQ's (Stan) was finally answered by Arve, SM6FFG in Vallda, Sweden. Arve is not a member of FISTS but they had an enjoyable 30 minute rag chew. Then Stan called Bill, W4BOT and told him 15 Meters was open. He also sent an e-mail off to Geo, G3ZQS suggesting that he get GX0IPX on the air on 15 Meters. So, then by golly at 1829 UTC (Bill) was "thrilled" to get FISTS # 1 from Geo at GX0IPX. And later Fred, G4HWK #6470 at 1847 UTC. By far the best bands were 40 and 20 Meters. We were disappointed that there was not much activity on 80 Meters. However the opening of 15 Meters provided some real fun for Bill, who is new to "contesting" and he told me it was one of the biggest thrills he has had in his 50 years of ham radio."

Geo, who operated #1 club station GX0IPX, commented that conditions were very poor on 15 meters. "In fact, the wheels came off after about 30 minutes and by that time, 20m was nbg due to the noise level." I'll leave it to your imagination what "nbg" really means! Hi hi Three clubs participated from "down under". ZL6FF, VK2FDU and VK4RC. Judging by what I saw in the smattering of logs I received, propagation conditions were not very conducive to contacts either with Europe or New Zealand and Australia. But I will say many thanks for the hard earned contacts that they provided. Canada was represented by a few clubs most notably VA7TRS operated by John, VE7NI. John had 78 contacts with participants this year. Many thanks to the Canada clubs.

Robin Faulkner, the man behind the fabulous certificates, has done a wonderful service for the Coast-to-Coast event. The certificates are better than any other I have seen. They are printed on a cloth-based paper and the printing really stands out. Almost a 3D effect. To date, Robin has issued 52 certificates.

With more than nearly 80 scores entered in the database, I'd say that C2C 2003 was an unqualified success with lots of activity both slow and fast. It was interesting listening to the ragchews that would occasionally develop between the clubs and members. I heard one member

mention that this was the first contest he'd entered and was having a blast. Darron Sanchez, WA5TCZ was one of those just getting started. His score of 928 was very commendable for a beginner.

I look forward to next year's event as many of you do. I personally will be getting two more clubs registered and I hope that the trend continues. The more the merrier!

73 Paul Beringer NG7Z Chairman C2C '03

Coast to Coast (C2C) Results

<i>Call</i>	<i>Fists #</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Club</i>
K8FLY	3032	1911	
W8III	5058	1628	
WA9PWP	2153	1435	
N0BZM	5149	1400	
WB0PYF	7986	1394	
W4WDA	9372	1240	
K9PL	6753	1140	
NG7Z	5368	1073	
K4UK	2934	990	
KA1OX	2489	960	
WD9EMF	9550	960	
K8NVR	7957	957	
WA5TCZ	9441	928	
W5TA	7889	858	
WB6QQR	8023	725	
N3JV	9365	676	
K0CPX	8558	675	
KD5MDO	9488	675	
KO1U	N/A	675	
W0UFO	3823	650	
KH6HHS	9579	648	
W9YQ	2765	648	
WB4JJJ	2433	625	
N3ZPO	8836	575	
KD5MJJ	8180	529	
K0MAX	9134	528	
K4ORD	4272	484	
K7KJ	8686	420	
KS4TD	4760	399	
KC4TVN	870	360	
KS0M	3067	342	
K1KID	7882	340	
WA2VQV	3179	324	
N5EBD	9465	320	
KW3F	10140	300	
KS7J	3648	272	
AA2WN	8716	261	
K8VFR	5602	256	
N4RE	8806	255	
N1NGM	1273	238	
K7ZYV	3426	208	

K3NY	3549	195	
N7EIE	9925	143	
K6RCZ	9599	121	
WA9PDS	6790	121	
N1WH	9447	110	
KB9P	8437	36	
N1SB	7660	36	
WB9AUJ	3300	36	
KB4BS	9784	16	
W4BOT	5674	9	
W4FCR	7007	2378	X
K5FFF	9750	1950	X
W4MVZ	7600	1209	X
W2ZOJ	7900	1140	X
W4FFF	9700	1131	X
K7FFF	4400	1044	X
AC9BP	10050	1024	X
W8EOC	10250	1020	X
K9YA	9500	992	X
VA7TRS	9400	986	X
WS9CAN	9550	960	X
W9FFF	6900	850	X
W8NCK	8200	837	X
K8EY	3400	754	X
W4GGM	5700	725	X
KD5ZBF	10375	675	X
K1USN	9239	575	X
W2LZ	9100	546	X
W4UOT	10300	484	X
K5TCC	7400	400	X
W6RO	9350	400	X
W4HFH	2963	352	X
KC7EQW	8675	320	X
W7PXL	8800	300	X
KC8VC	10150	272	X
NJ2BB	9262	261	X
W2MO	8250	172	X
W4GAC	7875	144	X
W7TU	9475	143	X
W1AW	10200	100	X
W3GR	9275	72	X
NK3ST	6600	36	X
VK4RC	9066	16	X
GX0IPX	1	9	X

Which Logging Program for FISTS Stuff?

QUESTION: Dear Nancy, I want to start computer logging. I have no experience with logging programs, therefore I do not know the proper questions to ask except one! Can you tell me which programs are useful for Fists logging? Lowell KK5JZ

I don't use computer logging, so I asked some FISTS members for their opinions. Here they are, in no particular order:

I recommend Log-EQF. I have used many different logging programs and some are better than others, but Log-EQF will allow you to customize certain entry fields for input of things like 10-10 numbers, FISTS numbers, etc.. It is a very good general purpose logging program. 73 Buddy **WB4M #2537**

I like log-eqf Jess Colvin **AI9L**

For general logging purposes, I use N3FJP's Amateur Contact Log v2.4... This author has also written several contesting programs, including one designed to log contacts during a FISTS sprint. The program automatically writes your Cabrillo file as well. 73 Justin Grenier, **W3JGG**

I looked at the whole nine yards (N4FJP's) for what was it, \$49 one-time payment which includes future modules and upgrades and callbook info. Best looking thing I have seen yet. It can do everything but the dishes. It works on all systems but no explanation of how. I may contact him about that. If it works, it works, and it has some awesome capabilities. More than I have seen in any other package. Simplest way to find it is to put "N3FJP log" in Google and up it comes... Go to Register to see the individual packages, and what it would cost to get them separately vs. the \$49 to get them all. Fred **NY2V**

I use LOG-EQF. This is a very user friendly logging program that does what we all need for the purpose. Of the "pre defined areas" it has a couple that the user can change its name: TRACK & INFO. I changed these two to read: FIST & CC NUMBER. I must say that its author Mr. Tom Dandrea, has always and I quote ALWAYS responde to questions regarding any areas of the program. Hope my comments are of some help. Regards **Hector (Luigi) Perez FIST 2531**

I have been using N3FJP's logging program for about a year now and am very pleased with the performance. The AC Log is able to keep track of many different awards, modes, and other info of your choosing. He also writes contest logging programs that are fully transferable to your main log. I have used his FISTS Sprint log for the last year and have submitted them via e-mail when complete. All his programs are able to save in ADIF format which is needed to upload to LoTW. I have done this, and it is very easy.

All his logging programs have a CW module, which allows you to do either keyboard CW or set up macros ("F" keys) for use during contests. I also can't say enough about the support I have received, recently had a glitch when upgrading the software and was very worried that I would lose all the data. Via e-mail I explained to him my situation, a few e-mails later he found the fix and provided me with a .exe file that fixed the problem. 73 de Bruce **WB7RHT 8618**

The best IMHO is Scott's, N3FJP: <http://www.n3fjp.com/index.html> Easy to use and his software is very inexpensive. 73 Dan, **N8IE (Sprint Manager)**

For cost and simplicity you can beat ALog by N3FJP software. WWW.N3FJP.com. He supports all of the contests with special logging programs also, including FISTS. He completely supports all of his programs. If you have a problem you can e-mail him and he will reply very quickly. Give it a try, you will like it.

73 Glenn Rogers **WA5ZJK** Fists # 4978

THE SECRETS OF CW

Frank Merritt, VE7FPM

Many CW Amateur Radio operators never get beyond the very elementary mode of operation. One of the reasons for this is they never open themselves up to the true potential of CW. Another reason for this is that often times they just don't try very hard.

In dealing with this fascinating situation it is necessary to go right back to the beginning with operating CW. In the beginning many operators just don't like CW. It seems to be "so hard". It is a requirement that they feel has been forced down their throats. With a predisposition such as this one cannot wonder they find everything about CW to be difficult and unpleasant.

We humans are individually programmed. This can be likened to a computer. Without an operating system program a computer is nothing more than a bunch of electronics. However, with the operating system the computer becomes a tool that can be used. We individuals can also see the results in other areas of our lives of this programming. This can be considered as natural abilities. Actually, it goes much deeper than this.

For the most part most people just "live" with these mind-sets. We feel that they are "built in" and therefore are not changeable. Of course, this is not the case but this is the "easy" way to deal with the matter of these predispositions. Sometimes we can see the sources of some of these individual ways in terms of family conditionings, societal conditionings and even pre-natal pre-conditionings. This is nothing more than a studied consideration of the human condition.

Many of these conditionings and pre-conditionings are very subtle and seem to evade most considerations. However, in the case of CW something can be done about it. Many years ago the author was attending a signal school in the army. Immediately outside a room that was used as a laboratory, a punching bag was attached to the wall. The CW operators in-training used the punching bag to relieve the tensions of learning CW all day. Experimentally it was found that if a radio receiver was tuned to an RTTY signal the CW trainees would be gone in less than two minutes. The CW trainees were used to the random rhythm of CW and found the repetitive nature of RTTY to be very disturbing. The very nature of the CW signal was incompatible with the RTTY signal. As soon as this relationship was discovered it was used to clear the punching bag area when operations in the lab were desired.

The very interesting feature of this tale of subliminal conflict is that the sound of RTTY was familiar and acceptable to me but not those students of CW. Years later when I was studying CW to prepare for my Amateur Radio examination I found that as I accepted the rhythm of CW I no longer had any difficulty in learning CW. What was going on was something way down deep in the mind.

Those trying to learn CW virtually always have a mental block or pre-conditioning that causes a conflict when learning it.

This would almost seem to be something that is so deep and strong that it is impossible to learn CW. How many times have we heard prospective Hams say that “learning CW is just too hard”. Their approach had not adequately dealt with some preconditioning. This statement seems to indicate that there is a way for the individual to soften this preconditioning and even reverse it. That is exactly correct!

The manner of dealing with this deep-seated emotional feeling is amazingly easy. When learning CW is necessary to condition the mind to accept the rhythm of CW. It is fascinating to see how easy it is to accomplish this. The technique of doing this is simple and without stress. A source of random CW is required that can be varied in both speed and volume. It is best to have a unit that has a provision for an external headset or speaker¹.

What is new is the way that the CW practice unit is used. A time should be selected that does not require the full attention of the student. This can be during a time of activity that does not require concentration. By playing the random CW at a low audio level it is just barely perceived by the brain. Periodically change the selection of the random CW text. Make no attempt to recognize the CW characters. What is happening is that the brain is being conditioned to, at first, accept the CW and eventually be at ease with it. Sleep teaching? Yes, close to it. If using the unit for sleep teaching be sure that if you use a pillow speaker the level is very low.

Years ago I jammed an old record player to continuously repeat a record and then used a record with random CW characters. I used this device at night as sleep teaching. The first morning after trying this I found that my wife was not happy with all that noise going on all night. Be sure that your wife, or whatever, is compatible with this procedure. The second problem was found to be that that eventually the brain has the capability of memorizing an amazing length of random CW. Hence it is desirable to be able to select one of a number of random CW offerings.

It hardly seems necessary to make the point that the results will probably not be instantaneous. It will take time and perseverance. Little by little you will be able to notice an improvement with the ease that you hear and remember CW.

Along with this practice it is wise to use a newspaper as a source and gain practice sending CW. At first this will be tiring but again with time you will find that it gets easier and easier. In sending code the greatest emphasis should be placed on sending PERFECT code. Use a straight key for this practice. Learn to send perfect characters and words using the proper spacing of one space between characters and three spaces between words. At first keep the speed slow enough to make it enjoyable while a challenge. In a week or so it should be possible to send 30-minutes of newspaper text at a time. While you are at it, try sending just “e” as many times as you can on your straight key.

At first this will be for a short period of time but with practice this time should move up to as much as 30-minutes. That sounds really hard. It is not difficult with practice. The usage of the straight key should be such that the wrist muscles ARE NOT used. They are short and tire quickly resulting in a "glass fist". The arm should be used as a long lever using the muscles of the lower and upper arm. At first these muscles get tired quickly but, they are long and can be trained to function without any effect of the "glass fist". This term goes back to the early years of CW sending in which the short muscles of the wrist get tired and the operator just has to stop sending. Just keep the wrist muscles taut without strain and do no pivot at the wrist.

Remember that you have been receiving perfect code from the machine. In a matter of time borrow a Ham receiver and tune in to the CW portion of the band that seems to work the best for you. The reason for this is that very few people send perfect code all the time.

As the practicing continues you should begin to pick out small words such as "an", "or" and "as". When this begins to happen you will notice that words such as "the", "and", "good" and "this" just pop out of the CW stream. Now you are making real progress.

Not everyone progresses at the same rate. Above all be patient with yourself. You will be surprised how the code begins to just "come". Whatever you do keep with a straight key for sending. A Semi-automatic key or Bug will be for later. Much after the Bug, the Iambic keyer will be a boon to sending. **FIRST LEARN TO SEND PERFECT CW WITH THE HAND KEY.**

Sometimes when I am driving I talk with myself in CW about the view of the road etc. No, this is not a sign that I have slipped off the deep end! It is a good training for learning to converse in CW with other noises within and without the car. By this point I am sure that you will be using CW at the bottom of your favorite HF band. Good luck.

ⁱ One such commercial CW practice unit is the MFJ Model 418 which is sold by Durham Radio Sales and Service for \$119 plus taxes and shipping. This unit will be found on page 29 of their latest catalog. The unit can be purchased online at: www.durhamradio.com

ADVANCED SECRETS OF CW

Frank Merritt, VE7FPM

Yes, there is still more to the mystery of operating CW. We now delve into the innermost byways of this interesting facet of Amateur Radio. The earliest forms of communicating intelligence by radio was by CW. The CW that we now use is a derivative of the land-line Morse communications. This is a fascinating study, but we will focus on radio operations. The most basic concept is that the characters from which words are made are communicated by a series of dits and dahs. This, in itself, does not seem to be too complex. But, this is just the beginning of a story and a development that is involved in the most recent information regarding the brain and its use.

From CW the state-of-the-art progressed (?) to voice as with Amplitude Modulation (AM). This was a way for anyone with some competence in voice communication to take part in the exploding field of radio communications. Also, this involves music transmission.

However, CW did NOT just fade away. There remained many operators who did not abandon CW in preference to voice communications. The reasoning for this is nothing less than arcane. There was a difference that was, and is, difficult to comprehend. That does not mean to say that it is an impossible enigma. This is not the case.

Many CW operators realized that there was something more to the International Morse Code than just memorizing the representations of the letters, numbers and punctuation. This is where we really delve into the advanced mysteries of code.

We will momentarily discuss another facet of the overall situation. Typists find that there are different levels of typing. At first it is a great challenge to just type the text. As proficiency increases it is found that the typist can read a bit faster than the actual typing. This is as if the brain is storing the information to be typed and then it is typed at the speed of the typist. As time goes by the typist notices that there is a mental translation that permits the eyes to provide the input to the brain resulting in typing without any conscious action. Again, as time goes by the typist finds that he/she is able to read the typed text and edit it for typing errors. A part of this mental editing proceeds the typist becomes aware of the text so as to read it for errors that are more than just spelling errors.

In this progression it is not unusual for the typist to divert his/her eyes from the screen and type the original text entirely from the formulation in the brain. We can see from this discussion that it is possible for the brain to do more than just convert words/letters to actuated keys. There is much more to it. This diversion has nothing directly to do with our premise of CW operation but indicates the power of the brain.

As time goes by in the practice of CW the operator becomes aware of small words at first that just "pop out" of the audio. Words such as "as", "or", "an" and "if" just appear out of the seeming jumble of the International Morse characters. This is when the operator BEGINS to

really be an operator. For some this happens quickly and for some it takes much more experience. The eventuality of this characteristic is that in a matter of time the operator finds that he/she is copying two to three words behind and that the word/words are mentally checked and corrected for errors. Now this is something!

Each operator has what is called a FIST. That means that his/her sending exhibits characteristics which are unique to that person. In WWII this meant that radio intercept operators knew the fists of many of the enemy operators which provided a clue when the enemy moved units to a new location. It was quite common for the intercept operators to provide names for the enemy operators which sometimes were quite humorous.

Today the individual fist is not as obvious as it once was due to the fact that it is common today to use an electronic keyer. It is a correct observation that the keyer drives the sending of the operator. However, in time there always are slight variations in sending characteristics or even words that indicate a particular operator. Also, it must be observed that the way different operators express themselves says a great deal for their personalities. That is something to think about!

Perfect hand key sending is beautiful to hear. Also, it is easy to copy! This leads us into the problems that arise in copying CW. It is not uncommon that under some conditions a relatively good code operator may not be able to copy well if at all. What is involved here is that running characters together results in an almost impenetrable jumble of characters. Especially when there is QRM or QRN the result is absolutely impossible to deal with. It is obvious that the goal of every operator should be to send perfect code. In reality this does not always happen but it certainly is a reasonable goal for every operator to aspire to.

One of the charms that is easy to recognize with CW is that as it is a language within itself and it is based on the English language. To be sure there are countries that have developed somewhat unusual forms of CW but for the most part Amateur Radio CW operation is in English. What is common with a foreign operator is that he/she begins their operating career with a prompt sheet providing the basic information to be communicated. As a matter of fact, the prompt sheet is very common with beginning operators whose basic language is English. The first contact of any operator is very challenging to deal with this new language of CW.

The other side of the coin of CW operations is that for most operators WORK is required to master the art of CW. There are those operators who just seem to immediately develop the ability to send code but for most of the rest of us it was (or is) an uphill battle until proficiency is gained. In our present world this does not satisfy the increasing demand for instant gratification and so it is a barrier for some. The citizens band is an excellent example of what happens when this instant gratification is taken to a logical extreme.

In all CW operations there is a desire for brevity. This is why a number of codes have been developed to express more complicated statements or questions in the form of three letters of the code in question. One example of this is the Q-code. The Q-code designation of QTH stands for the geographical location of the sender or QTH? represents a question for the sender to communicate his/her location to the receiver. Some of the Q-code items are rather amusing,

such as QLF which means “send with your left foot”. While originating with commercial circuits the designation QLF is never heard on the Ham bands, and for good reason.

Efficiency of transmission is a consideration of CW operators. CW may be sent and received with a bandwidth of 500 Hz or less! What this means is that a number of CW operators can use the same spectrum that would otherwise be used for one AM or SSB signal. Of course, the other side of this equation is that a good stable and selective receiver is a great advantage in operating with CW. This is not to say that these qualities are an absolute necessity but rather an advantage in the practical world.

Operating with CW with a narrow bandpass receiver means that much undesired noise and the effects of other signals is just lost. This is a very great enhancement and makes CW operating much more pleasurable.

Operating CW is an art as much as anything else. It certainly is not something that a neophyte operator can expect to do easily or quickly. As much as anything else this fact tends to make it somewhat exclusive. The removal of the proficiency in CW requirement has opened the door for many who never otherwise would have become Hams because now they can just get a licence, buy a radio and operate. On the other hand (and there is another hand) there has been no infringement of CW operations on any band by any country (to the best of my knowledge). Some think that CW will just fade away. I don't believe that is true. It is somewhat unfortunate that effort is required to become a CW operator. But really, is that true? I doubt it. As operators in general realize that there is something more than voice or digital communications they become candidates for the art of CW. The game has changed a bit but in the long run this may be an advantage. Time will tell.

FISTS CW CLUB "DOWN UNDER" Newsletter

- November 2003

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SUGGESTED H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

(160M) - 1.808MHz, (80M) - 3.528MHz, (40M) - 7.028MHz, (30M) - 10.118MHz, (20M) - 14.058MHz,
(17M) - 18.085MHz, (15M) - 21.058MHz, (12M) - 24.918MHz, (10M) - 28.058MHz.
Novice - Sub Bands: (15M) - 21.158MHz, (10M) - 28.158MHz.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

VK4KSS - Adam Jaroszyk # 9619, lives in Browns Plains, Queensland, close to Brisbane. Adam is also a member of the CW Operators' QRP Club. His equipment includes a Kenwood TS-520S, a Windom antenna and a three-element multi-band Yagi.

VK2UK - Ted Klein # 9620, is from Heckenberg, New South Wales, about which Ted writes. It is south west of Sydney, close to the city of Liverpool and 120 metres above sea level. Heckenberg was named after the Heckenberg Family, who were early pioneers. Two sons of the Heckenberg family were radio amateurs, but they are now Silent Key. One was Eddie Heckenberg, VK4AN late of Taringa QLD and the other Arthur S. Heckenberg, VK2AHL late of Richmond NSW. So - Ted says he is the second generation of hams in Heckenberg!

VK8CAW - Karl Warchot # 9621, is our new and only VK8 member, since the departure of VK8JC to the U.S.A. sometime ago. He lives in Darwin, in the far north of the Northern Territory. We hope to obtain a profile from Karl in due course, for a future newsletter.

There are personal profiles from VK4KSS and VK2UK below.

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS

In renewing their subscriptions, **ZL1BLR - Len # 9061**, **VK3CGB - Chris # 9087** and **ZL2BPE - Jan # 9024** included generous donations. Many thanks Len, Chris and Jan.

VK7LF - Tom # 3712 has discovered that a heinous crime has been committed. Someone has stolen the contacts from the FISTS Club cloth badge. We know that there are some out there, of the no-code brigade, who would go to great lengths to hinder us, but this is ridiculous. Obviously a case for Inspector Morse. However, we are afraid Tom, that there is no refund or discount. On second thoughts, maybe that's why the badges are so inexpensive.

ZL2ASQ - Eric # 9041 has recently qualified for his Century Club membership. Congratulations Eric.

ZL2AJB - Leo # 9093, regretfully has decided to resign. He says that he has enjoyed his brief membership, but has little time for Amateur Radio these days and just hasn't participated in events. (Thanks Leo - Sorry to lose you! When you find a little time, say hello to the gang - Ed)

FISTS DOWN UNDER NEWSLETTER

Members are advised that the final newsletter for this year will be the December Issue. This will be followed by a break in the New Year, with the next newsletter being the February Issue. Our main reason for doing this, is to fall in line, with the FISTS U.K. "Keynote".

The December issue will be our annual "Photograph" issue. Please remember that photographs are always welcome and will be included whenever possible! The February 2004 issue, will contain updated membership and full call sign listings, together with other relevant information.

To those who have noticed this issue is slightly later than usual, our apologies! The delay was due to technical problems, which I'm pleased to say were not computer related - Ed.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS' NEWS

K6DF - Dennis # 3076, the FISTS Awards Manager, has just returned from a visit to Germany.... the jet lag is still with me, I guess. Had a wonderful time in Germany, . . . GREAT beer and food!!!! Beautiful countryside as well. My daughter lives out in the country, in a little village full of very nice people. I'll be back there in March so look for K6DF/DL on the bands again around the 1st of March.

2E0BGD - Brian # 7741 writes from Bath...thank you very much for sending me the October edition of FISTS Down under and congratulations on the content and quality again. I always look forward to reading the pen pictures and stories of your members. By the way I have ordered a copy of the book reviewed - "History of the Radio Officer" from my local library. The staff are great there. There is an ordering service and they will get a copy of almost any book I ask for, in a short while and I can borrow it for three weeks, for the princely sum of 80 pence! ...73 to you and your members, dit dah dit dah dit.

W3JGG - Justin # 9980 has just moved to a suburb of Portland, OR from Palm Beach, FL. He has a problem, and writes....I have set up my ham shack here in the new house...Much time has been spent erecting and placing my antennae, which include an R5 vertical, and a G5RV dipole. This set up is not much different from how I had things in FL; I was able to put a ground rod right outside my shack window, and the conductor to it is about 4' long. On all bands, my noise level with both antennae is anywhere between S8 and 30-50dB over S9. It is impossible for me to operate with 100W, let alone 1W, and it is very frustrating as I am losing a bit of CW proficiency. There is no BPL test area around as far as I know. We have 3 PCs on a router here in the house, one of them implements the 802.11b wireless thing...I have tried unplugging and shutting down all of it with absolutely no change in my RX noise level. Any suggestions as to where I might continue looking would be sincerely appreciated. Any suggestions should be sent to Justin c/o FISTS Down Under or direct to justin_greiner@yahoo.co.uk

G3KMG - David # 0124, in a last minute note says that he and Rita are celebrating their "Ruby Wedding" with a trip to Mauritius. They will be there between 31st October and 15th November and hopefully may meet FISTS members 3B8CF - Jacky # 0951 and 3B8GE - Raj # 4834. We have asked for any photographs of the visit, for a future Down Under Newsletter. David had planned to take a QRP rig with him and on applying for a license received the reply that applications had to be received 6 months in advance! Any operation now, will be under a local amateurs call, as a guest operator.

K1DT - Tess # 10358, hails from Warwick, Rhode Island. In a recent QSO with Nigel - ZL2TX # 9040, on 40 Metres, he mentioned that he is always on the lookout for VK / ZL members. He uses Collins "S" Line equipment and a photo of his set up can be viewed by looking up his call on www.QRZ.com <<http://www.QRZ.com>> . The HRO Receiver in the photo is still in use today, and as good as the day it was made, over 60 years ago!

M0BYJ - Bob # 8973, following a QSO with Nigel, ZL2TX, wrote - "Many thanks for FB QSO this morning & your Email this evening. Isn't Science wonderful!! Yes I was thrilled when you came back to me, XYL could not understand why I should get so excited - had to get the old school atlas & show her your QTH. What made our QSO doubly interesting was the aerial I was using, a folded dipole half wave loop from an article in Sept. Radcom by GM3VLB and it was only 10ft up, I was listening out for Jakey ZL1JKY (G3JKY) who should be back in NZ sometime this month. He had promised to give me my first ZL but you beat him to it!! Thanks for the points Nigel I am now about 15 short of the century, have to get cracking, age 86!!"

MEMBERS' PROFILES

VK4BUI - Les # 9617 writes about himself: My wife and I have been living out here in VK for the past 4 years since I retired. We have a son living quite close with his wife and 2 grandsons and another married son in the UK. My first job was in the Merchant Navy, where I worked as an R/O for the Marconi Co (GTZM) for 3 years before going ashore and becoming a Civil Servant. Took up amateur radio in retirement and obtained my call M0BUI in 1998.

My preference is for CW, but also use SSB and have no real interest in the data modes. I enjoy all the varied aspects - DX chasing with just a brief exchange, IOTA collecting, working Light Houses (a throw back to my seagoing days I guess) and nattering. I also like to take part in some contests RD. Oceania, BERU - while looking for odd calls in the CQWW CW/SSB etc.

At the moment I run just 200w into a G5RV but am looking into putting up some sort of beam for skeds with friends in the UK.

VK4KSS - Adam # 9619 also writes about himself: I was born and raised in Penrith, New South Wales. After leaving school in 1981, I completed an apprenticeship with the State Rail Authority of NSW as an Industrial Blacksmith. In 1989 I moved to Brisbane with my new wife, Therese, starting a family a few years later. I have three children, a girl and two boys, affectionately known as Search, Bash and Destroy (hi).

After arriving in Queensland in 1989, I worked for a Spring Maker on the Gold Coast until 1995 when I made a career change, and became a CAD draftsman. Because there was so much to organize in the first few years of moving interstate and starting afresh, I didn't have a great deal of time for Amateur Radio, but in 1995 I attained my novice

limited, and held the call sign of VK4HBC. Within a couple of months I had sat my 5 wpm Morse and was on HF with VK4LAJ. Last year I passed my unrestricted theory, with the help of Ron Bertrand, VK2DQ/4 and his on-line course.

I have a modest station that comprises of a Kenwood TS-520S and Yaesu FT-90. Recently, I started home brewing my own equipment, completing a 15-amp power supply and a T-KIT 1553 keyer from Ten-Tec. I hope to work my way up to something more challenging eventually, maybe a 40m transceiver.

When I'm not on the radio, you can normally find me chasing the kids around the back yard or seeing the sites around South East Queensland with my family.

VK2UK - Ted # 9620 tells us about himself. He came to Australia in 1952, from Europe. He has spent a lifetime in manufacturing. Some of the products he has been involved with, in development and production are; WW resistors and industrial ceramics, in the electronic field manufacturing automatic telephone equipment long line and repeater gear, Philips traffic control equipment. He also worked on defence gear, such as radar and weapon systems (Hughes FA 18.) He also has some experience in quality control.

Ted, has held an amateur license since 1948. He has been a home-brewer since the pre SSB days of AM radio and has achieved success, with numerous projects. He collects and builds Morse keys.

On the operational side of ham radio he is a keen DXer with over 320 countries confirmed. He has DXCC CW and DXCC mixed, WAS Award, Antarctic Award #20 and WACVK Award. It looks as if he will soon be collecting FISTS awards.

THE END OF YET ANOTHER ERA

A friend of **ZL2CD - Bill # 9004**, received an interesting clipping that tells of yet another example of history losing out to technology. The original article had some interesting pictures but unfortunately they were not suitable for reproduction.

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In August, the huge masts and towers at the former BT Cnggion radio station were scheduled to be destroyed. The demolition job did not go entirely smoothly, as our eye witness reporter Quentin Cruse GW3BV, explains... The BT radio station at Criggion near Welshpool ceased transmissions on 31 March this year. The Criggion station was built during WW2 as a backup to the Rugby site. The value of Rugby was such that if it were put out of action, the defence of country would be in danger. A search for a suitable site began and Criggion was selected. The site was flat and wet, and nearby Breiddin Hill could be used as an additional antenna anchor point. Building of the station was not quite complete when Rugby caught fire. As it happened, it was not enemy action, but too much RF in the roof and the ensuing blaze meant Rugby was out of action. Equipment was salvaged, and Criggion rapidly became up and running as GBZ.

The three original masts were each 185 metres high. In 1969 improvements meant that three more masts, each 215 metres high, were erected.

Criggion was run by the GPO subsequently BT with the main customer being the MoD. The station mainly operated on VLF, between 16 and 25 kHz, for communicating with submarines. Coded transmissions came into Criggion on landlines and these were transmitted on the appropriate frequency. The staff at Criggion never knew what they were sending or where it was going.

Times change and, despite upgrades in 1983 and 1991, Criggion's days were numbered. When the contract for the work at Criggion came up for tender, Merlin Communications won and so Cnggion was closed. At its peak the station provided work for 150 people, including many radio amateurs over the years, a few of whom were still there to decommission the site.

A number of radio amateurs from Aberystwyth, Kidderminster and Welshpool were shown around the site and I had the privilege of having several tours. It was a sad place to visit: soon there will be nothing left and the land and buildings sold off. The equipment inside - coils, valves, switches and meters - has been scrapped. I was given an "Aerial tune" meter which had been used in the VLF building, as a souvenir by the staff. It now has pride of place in my shack.

Criggion has not gone without a fight, however. The masts and towers were due to be demolished in a 10-minute period on 17 August. Things did not go according to plan. The explosives on the first mast failed to move it at all, but at the second attempt it collapsed. The next victim was a tower. An almighty explosion echoed across the valley, but the tower stood firm. It was left as it was, as the demolition team had obviously made some fundamental miscalculation. The second mast was next. This time the explosion was followed by only half of the mast falling down. Laughter from the many spectators was heard all around. Another set of explosives and it hit the ground. The last mast gave up gracefully and hit the ground at the first attempt. At the time of writing two towers still stand tall

despite several attempts by the demolition experts they stubbornly remain.

It seems a terrible shame that those great monumental towers will soon be gone. The landscape will change and Criggion will be lost. Why do we allow our heritage to disappear in such a way? A testament to mans ingenuity and skill, a reminder of the darker days Britain has seen and living proof of the adage "necessity is the mother of all invention". RIP GBZ.

ONE DOOR CLOSSES - ANOTHER OPENS.

The often-controversial magazine "73 Amateur Radio Today" ceased publication with its September 2003 issue. Its well-known founder, proprietor and long time contributor "Uncle" Wayne Green cited financial considerations for the closure. It will be missed by many.

On a more optimistic note, the familiar "Flying Horse" Radio Amateur Call Book is to reappear again. The American proprietors ceased publishing the familiar large volumes a few years ago, but continued to issue it on compact disc for a while afterwards. We reported in FISTS Down Under when they finally decided to cease production. The CDs had been produced for the American company in Germany. Now the people who made the discs, ITFM GmbH, have announced that they have purchased it and that the Radio Amateur Callbook will be produced again

The Radio Amateur Callbook is just preparing the new Winter 2004 edition. (They forget that there is the other half of the world where it is Summer!) It will appear in November 2003. The CD ROM will list more than 1.600.000 callsigns as well as addresses, geographical information, e-mail addresses and QSL managers and a lot of extras including more than 250 maps. It will be interesting to see whether the new venture survives, with its published price of \$US 49.95.

AUSTRALIAN UPDATE - CHRIS THOMPSON, VK2MQX # 9057

Over the past few months, several members have enthusiastically aired our national club call sign (VK2FDU) and have reported a pleasing number of contacts. A QSL card has been designed for VK2FDU and should be available soon.

Please consider using the national club call. It's great publicity and gives other members a chance to grab 5 FISTS points.

Members' Photos - Please send in your personal photo, so that we can add it to the members gallery section of the website. We are also encouraged by our US colleagues to send in photos for inclusion in the annual Keynote Reference Issue. Photos can be sent to George VK2DLF georgerex@optusnet.com.au <<mailto:georgerex@optusnet.com.au>> or Chris VK2MQX. Both electronic and hard-copy versions gladly accepted.

FISTS Club Items

Due to a recent rush on club items, Chris VK2MQX will soon be placing an order with the US chapter to replenish stocks. If you are after something in particular, please advise Chris so that he can add it to the order. A list of available items can be found on the US FISTS website at www.fists.org/howdoi.html <<http://www.fists.org/howdoi.html>> A catalogue detailing club items with VK prices will be published in the near future.

(NOTE :- New Zealand Members are encouraged to send in their photo's to VK2DLF for inclusion in the Web Site, however any supplies should be ordered from Ralph, ZL2AOH, with whom, it would be wise to check first - Ed)

DESTINATION UNKNOWN

SYD SUTHERLAND, ZL1BRS # 9013

In 1956, I was employed by Marconi Marine as Radio Officer aboard the British registered T2 tanker, ESSO BIRMINGHAM / GTYS. Due to the Suez crisis at that time, the situation for merchant shipping in the Northern Hemisphere, particularly oil tankers was most uncertain. Normally, before departure from the last port in UK / Europe, ships would have some idea of their next voyage and for tankers, this was most likely to be a port in the Persian Gulf, via the Suez Canal, but of course, this was now no longer possible.

The R/O was required to keep an alert watch for messages about changes of voyage particulars often at short notice. There were also Collective Call Sign messages from the Admiralty (GACQ) and from the British Post Office (GBMS) to all British Merchant Ships concerning minefields around the Suez Canal area and information such as the suspension of Radio Traffic via Alexandria Radio / SUH. The first message from the ship's owners / charterer's offices, mostly in the U.K. would be via Portishead Radio / GKL, often advising the tanker to head for St. Kitts for orders. St. Kitts is a small island at the entrance of the Caribbean, at which point a decision was made where to route the ship for loading. This could be the Gulf of Mexico or more likely to Venezuelan ports around Amuay Bay, such as El Palito, Puerto La Cruz and others. It was necessary to keep watch on the erratic coast station YVL, at Caracas for berthing information.



KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.zl6qh.com>

E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com webmaster: webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY

CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

COMMITTEE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
P.R.O.
Secretary

G4XHZ
G4YLB
G4YLB
G3ZQS

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations

Recommended calling QRGs:

3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:

<fistsawards@comcast.net>

written logs to HQ.

GREETINGS

Last months' Keynote was a little late at the Post Office because I was in something of a tizzy. Ivy had been admitted to hospital again and at the moment, things are looking less than rosy. Spent what time I could on-air with the SKW which rewarded me with lots of pleasant QSOs. Some were of a 'regular' nature whilst others terminated a void of up to 6 years and a further bonus was the logging of quite a few new members.

At the time of writing this, I have tuned around 20 and 15m in the hope of finding some C2C traffic but neither was useable. It would be a shame if there was no transatlantic path at all for the event. We wait and see but much of the waking hours of the US gang may well be spent at the side of a hospital bed.

Please note the change of email address for Dennis, K6DF. He has been obliged to make this change due to the amount of spam finding its way into his mailbox. Many of you will know the problem and for some time now I have been laundering my mail through a handy bit of software rather than make changes since it would be akin to handing victory to the spammers. Takes me a couple of minutes to sort the wheat from the chaff but it means that all this unsolicited effluent is bounced and with a false address at that. Hi.

THE LADDER

Unforgivable of me but I failed to note the July results last month.

Here the annual results for 2003 are lumped together with July being in the first pair and August in the second pair of columns:

Call	Points	Call	Points
G4LHI	344	G4LHI	391
G3VQO	218	G3VQO	230
G4AQZ	214	M0AYI	227
M5ABN	187	G4AQZ	214
M0AYI	185	M5ABN	212
G0MRH	182	G0MRH	190
M5AGL	129	M5AGL	149
M0RHB	108	M0RHB	132
HB9CHE	105	HB9CHE	108
OH7QR	90	OH7QR	105
M0DRK	81	M0DRK	103
M0CMQ	63		
M0BRY	28		
G0SOP	24		
GW0SGG	17		
M3XGQ	16		
M3GBT	13		
G0XAH	10		

G4LHI was squeezed into second place in the July monthly stakes by G3VQO whilst G0MRH held third place. Bob, M5AGL noted that conditions were again difficult with holiday season points not easy to find, reminding us also that the ladder is open to all UK/EU Fists members so please let's have some more logs from those members who pop up just to give points to those taking part. During August, conditions improved a little and he thanks those who have taken part and hopes the improvement continues.

G0JLX MORSE PRACTICE

As many members will know, I get involved with the local Scout group every year for JOTA during October, and as we are fast approaching 'the date' as well as the end of the first CW tutorial period I have been running, I thought you'd appreciate knowing that on Thursday 16th October and Monday 20th October 2003, there will be NO CW PRACTICE Tx from my /p QTH in Epsom.

Secondly, my Epsom landlords of 3.5 years are on the move towards the sea on the south coast fairly soon, so I am moving within Epsom. That involves getting the W3EDP down off the fence and trellis work as well as physically moving everything across to the new /p QTH in Epsom. So, as a result, from Monday the 27th October until Thursday 30th October inclusive, there will be NO CW PRACTICE Tx from my /p QTH in Epsom as the station will be in bits. I hope to have completed a couple of weeks of 20 wpm by then, so the course will have reached its natural conclusion anyway, and I expect (hope) to have the station re-assembled and operational again for Monday 3rd November 2003, when we will re-start with 5 wpm for the new comers, working our way up slowly to 20 wpm eventually.

Anybody wanting an update on the position is welcome to try either tuning into 3.595 or 3.590 MHz CW from 1725 GMT to see if I am present, or by phoning me on my mobile (07768 282880).

ALTERNATIVE CALLS

Two alternative calls have been noted; GX7000 and G7ROY. The first is an alternative for GX0000 and the other an alternative for G4SSH.

The calls GX0000, 2E0000, G4SSH, GX7000 and G7ROY have been active in the SKW on a one-a-day basis. The Scarborough gang will be activating all in future events and perhaps also when there is nothing particular running. All the club calls count 3 points to Century. During the SKW period, well over 100 members were contacted and six of them acquired the full house of five different calls.

Also please note that my run-away fingers have been at it again and the club call MX4ERG should be MX0ERG. Uuuuugh there's never a dull moment. Hi.

Please note a change of call from M3NPB to M0RZZ.

THE BLUE UNIFORM

That description could apply to the Police, Fire Services or any number of organisations but Peter G0FVS uses it as a title to a well constructed 36 page book with glossy cover tracing his early start firing a steam loco (hauling essential weapons and other heavyweight kit from the Midlands to the docks) during the war. His desire to join the blue clad band in the RAF was frustrated because he was doing an 'essential' job but this excuse was no longer valid when the war ended. The book leads the reader on a fascinating trail from Egypt to Greece with hints of political goings on in that country following the end of the occupation. Tnks for the signed copy Peter. .

RAIN REPORT

In our series of programs examining some of the arguments for and against retaining the Morse code exam as part of the FCC's Amateur Radio testing process. Last week we heard from the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) regarding their petition (RM#10787) that proposes to eliminate the code exam entirely. This week we'll hear from Fists, a pro code organization that boasts upwards of 10,000 members worldwide. Its chair and driving force is Worldradio Magazine editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C. RAIN's Founder/Producer, Hap Holly, KC9RP, recently spoke with Kott about the Fists petition. (17 minutes). We're working on bringing you a third and final program delving into the complexities of the issues as they apply to the possible elimination of the code from the U.S. Amateur Radio testing process. These RAIN Reports are available via terrestrial dial-up at 847-827-RAIN as well as from rainreport.com.

You may consider it odd that over in the US, petitions are invited in the case of the no-code issue whereas in the UK, the decision seems to be taken and acted upon without further consultation but you must remember that the United Kingdom is a 'democratic country'. Hmmm!

WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND

A belated reminder from Rebecca Hodge of the fund's annual competition for Radio Amateurs Transmission. The contests have been held for the past 11 years in which Radio Amateurs are challenged to raise as much money as they possibly can through sponsorship. The individual and club that tops the list is rewarded I suspect through donations from commercial sources.

You may recall that in previous years, 1st place (individual) was achieved by a FISTS member.

The challenge for Clubs in 2003 would be to better the achievements of the Cray Valley R.S. who have held top spot for the past two years.

Unfortunately the event took place 20/21 September and the supporting bump arrived too late for inclusion in Keynote. I hope Rebecca will remind us earlier in future years since, with our significant membership numbers it is highly likely that the charity will receive further support.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

QTC from Ray, F6BQV, UFT's Chairman

Dear colleagues and friends,

Would you, for the EUCW societies whom you are President or trustee, inform your members about the 3rd EUCW 160 meters party, sponsored by the Union Française des Télégraphistes (UFT), which will be on the air on the first week end of January 2004. We hope numerous of them in this contest.

Let our fingers sing a song on this band once more.

Thanks in advance and regards.

73/88 from Ray, F6BQV.

I had to put this one in this month because of my shocking memory and the likelihood that by December it would be forgotten. I know we don't have too many members with the real estate for 160m antennas (seemed only yesterday that everyone had a quarter wave L/W for that band) but these days it is a sadly under-used segment of our allocation.

QSL CARDS

There is some confusion out there people. Some folks just don't believe that the cards are personalised in the first place and in many cases, I have actually had requests for cards which did not contain any identity. Principle info required is **Callsign** (of course), **The FISTS Number**, **Name** and **Address** saves me having to open the database, and any other affiliations which you wish to add. I am often asked to include CC number, email address, WAB and location. This is no problem provided this additional information does not overcrowd the cards. Makes 'em look very untidy. Many forget the postal costs. I ask you only for £1.00 (per 200 cards) though in actual fact the Post Office screw us for around £1.38 - and that is second class. Postal costs for Europe and DX are of course in excess of this which is why I ask those members to consult first. All orders direct to HQ with cheques payable simply to FISTS. Now you won't forget will you?

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

This has been one of those months and there was not a great deal of actual news coming through the letterbox. **G4RWP**. Eddie would like to acknowledge assistance of **G3MCK** in getting up and running on 80/40m. The resultant inverted vee that Gerald described produces a 1:1 vswr on both bands. Gerald failed to include his address with the advisory letter so Eddie QSPs his thanks via Keynote.

M0KIM. Ken saw 72 candles on his last birthday. I mention this because he points out that he passed his RAE last December. What was all that about old dogs and new tricks?

Well that's pretty much the lot believe it or not. I guess there was so much concentration on the SKW and resultant twingy wrists that it proved to be a chore worth dodging. Hi.

POWER LINE DATA XMSNS AGAIN

Jack WB2FXK shunted a QST report to my in-box in which it is reported that AMSAT (North America) has reiterated their condemnation of the idea.

AMSAT North America has told the FCC that it wants no part of B-P-L- and it has said it twice. Once in comments filed with the regulatory agency in July and in reply comments in August. In both cases AMSAT tells the FCC that it is against proposals to allow Broadband over Power Line systems to proliferate. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, is here with more:

In its filings, AMSAT says that it agrees with the American Radio Relay League's finding that Broadband Over Powerline or B-P-L is a Pandora's Box of unprecedented proportions. Once deployed, AMSAT says the consumer's expectations will be such as to preclude termination of the service. It says that interference problems, both to and from B-P-L, will inevitably be both widespread and impossible as a practical matter to rectify.

AMSAT says it bluntly. Amateur and amateur-satellite services cannot be protected from interference from B-

P-L. Also that B-P-L cannot be protected from interference from HF and VHF amateur radio stations. The ham radio space agency also maintains that the rules must insure that B-P-L is not permitted to operate in or near any amateur radio allocation. If B-P-L is permitted at all, any changes in amateur radio allocations must immediately trigger retroactive modifications to B-P-L facilities to delete any use of amateur radio frequencies. In addition, spurious emissions from B-P-L facilities must be substantially attenuated below current Part 15 levels.

In the end, AMSAT says that it joins ARRL in respectfully requesting that the Commission take no steps to permit access or in-building Broadband Over Powerline at H-F or V-H-F. At least, not at this time.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bruce Tennant, K6PZW, in Los Angeles.

The complete text of all AMSAT FCC filings are posted at <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/amsat-na/filings/index.html> AMSAT-NA).

This is followed by a report that the Eire authorities are dipping their toes in to test the water:

RADIO LAW: IRTS OBJECTS TO BPL IN IRELAND
Meantime, B-P-L may soon be coming to Erin's Isle. That's where Power Line Transmission Ireland has announced that it will begin experiments in broadband over powerline connections in October.

Now comes word that IRTS which is that nations Amateur Radio society has been in touch with Irish communications regulators. I-R-T-S has expressed the concern of Ireland's ham community that these experiments are now going ahead. It has also requested regulators ensure that B-P-L can only be permitted in Ireland on a strict non-interference basis with other radio services. (GB2RS)

As the debate grows it begging to look as if everyone has something to say about the issue of Broadband Over Powerlines or BPL. Now, even comic characters are chiming in. Yes, we said comic characters. In this case it is none other than the character Dilbert and from the text that accompanies the strip, the cartoonist is none to happy with the B-P-L idea.

This one you will need to judge for yourself. You can find it in cyberspace at <http://www.comics.com/comics/dilbert/archive/dilbert-20030908.html> (W9JUV).

The only saving grace here is that (as reported a couple of months back from the Netherlands) CW can live with it - or at least tolerate it. Yet another point in favour of the 'know code' brigade.

NYC AND POLICE QRGs

From Jack WB2FXK, an interesting little item:

A New York court has dismissed a misdemeanor charge against ARRL member Richard C. "Dick" Lalone, KC5GAX, for violating §397 of that state's Vehicle and Traffic Law. That section prohibits individuals other than law officers from equipping their vehicles with radios "capable of receiving signals on the frequencies allocated for police use" without first securing a permit. The section, which also prohibits knowingly interfering with

NEW MEMBERS

They are coming in fits and starts recently. Hi.
09853 G4ART Tim 09854 CO6TM Tom
09855 M0KWV Martin

Tom is our first Cuban station I think!

SILENT KEY

A brief indication that her father had passed away recently but no details from the daughter of G0TCM.

police transmissions, contains an explicit exemption for "any person who holds a valid amateur radio operator's license . . . and who operates a duly licensed portable mobile transmitter and in connection therewith a receiver or receiving set on frequencies exclusively allocated . . . to duly licensed radio amateurs."

In a nearly 1300-word decision, Judge John J. Hallet said it was clear the legislature never intended the provisions of §397 from applying to licensed Amateur Radio operators, and he dismissed the charge August 5. Susan Terry, KF4SUE, a former New York assistant attorney general, represented Lalone. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist John Hennessee, N1KB, provided advice or assistance to Lalone.

There are of course many significant differences in practice between the Radio Amateur and government bodies in various countries of the world but this business about a Radio Amateur seemingly operating legally on police QRGs is new to me. Hi.

FRENCH EXPO

For the 25th anniversary, and in Pierre Michel, F9AF's memory, the F5KCC ARS with about 20 operators will aired the special call sign TM9AF, from the 12th to 26th of October.

The activities are scheduled from 160 to 6 meters in CW, PSK, RTTY, SSB, SSTV and from 144 to 1.2 ghz in CW, FM, RTTY, SSB, ATV. They will entry also the CQ WW SSB Contest.

SPRINT

The 2nd Saturday in October finds the CW leg of the EU Sprint contest running. This one could be interesting since the CQ caller having snared a reply surrenders the QRG to the station who called him and so on. Thanks to Maurice, F5NQL for both the above items.

A WELCOME TO AUTUMN

In the next few weeks it is hoped that the abysmal conditions we have been experiencing on the HF bands will have eased. At least the trees are shedding their leaves which, although it may be a cause for some optimism for ourselves will probably be viewed less enthusiastically by our rail networks. This re-inforces the the axiom that what is good news for some is not good news for all.

Autumn is also the time of the year when the licence becomes due and the collection agency has again sent me a demand for £0.00. Whilst at first I was rather bemused by this, a recent communication with them made things clearer. I am expected to acknowledge the seemingly pointless exercise more or less to prove that I am still within the realm of the living and therefore it would be appropriate to continue with the callsign. Well at least there is some profit to be made by exceeding the magic figure of 75 candles. Hi.

ODDS 'N ENDS

I apologise if I appear to have been a little lax of late. Much of the traffic that would normally be turned around pdq has been quietly slid onto the back burner since so much of my time is spent visiting Ivy in hospital. My thanks to all of you who sent those kind messages of sympathy and support. Sadly, the lass seems to have shown little or no improvement since being admitted a few weeks ago and is the cause of much concern. Were it not for my son-in-law who drives me over each evening, it would be a very time consuming and expensive period. Amateur radio has been something of a tonic here since I am able to get on the key and generally unwind and this experience is one which I know is shared by so many of you. Old Sam may not have intended his communication system to have been so but it most certainly works better than a psychiatrists couch. Having found himself in 'stir' and dining on porridge, the inmate received a ring-bound binder from his wife containing a doughnut. "Here" she said "is a file with a cake in it. Sorry I couldn't manage to do it the other way round". I'm not telling you who dumped this one into my mailbox but I will surely get my own back some how.

THE OCCASIONAL SHOCK!

Someone, I thought, must be pretty mad by now. They were expecting a cheque for £200.00 and all they got was a fiver. I rang Jimmy (G3HBN) to explain that he had made the most expensive kokup and had sent me £200.00 for his subs with any excess to be treated as a donation to the club funds. As is usual in these sort of circumstances, the phone was diverted to the message recording centre so I left a brief request for him to contact me asap. This he did later that evening explaining that since he had spent a lot of time in hospital, he had been denied the pleasures of his second favourite hobby of spending money and was therefore somewhat 'loaded'. The same gesture I understand was extended to the G-QRP club. I receive variously weighted donations regularly but this one broke the mold. It is fortunate that no-one was on hand with a feather or I would be lying on my back. Tnks Jimmy.... most generous of you!

FINALE

Sorry about this folks but in the current situation I am finding it difficult to write. Keeping my fingers crossed that things improve and as usual, will be on the bands whenever possible.
73/88 and stay sober. Geo



KEY NOTE



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COMMITTEE

Chairman
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G4XHZ
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AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:

<fistsawards@comcast.net>

written logs to HQ.

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations

Recommended calling QRGs:

3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

SUBS: e-mail Keynote £4.00, UK mail £5.00, EEC mail £7.00. Others £10.00. Your renewal date appears on the mailing label and your anticipation would be much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to just FISTS.

Up-dated listings may be obtained from HQ. Please include 3 2nd class stamps to cover return and running costs

Lapel Badges, £1.50 incl. **Fabric patches** £1.50 incl.

QSL Cards £7.00 per 100 or £10.00 per 200 (UK and EU pse add £1.00 for p/p. DX members - on advice.

Personalised stickers £1.00 per sheet of 65. Max order 5 sheets.

Please include your **CALLSIGN** on all correspondence.

Useful contacts:

M0AVW 01642-869619 <spence5@ntlworld.com>

M0AYI Glenn@m0ayi.freeseve.co.uk

M5AGL bobm5ag1@btopenworld.com

M0ZAK jim.steel@ntlworld.com

QSL BUREAU INFO

All outgoing QSLs to M0AVW (address on banner).

All UK/EU members send stamps and labels (no envelopes necessary) to the appropriate sub-manager as below:

M or 2 Prefixes (Except for Wales) M0AYI. 7 Tynedale Terrace, Annfield Plain, STANLEY, DH9 7TZ.

G0, GM0 etc (Except GW0). G3JRY. 3 Rochford Cresc, BOSTON, PE21 9AE

G3, GM3 etc (except GW3). G0UQF. 2 East St, Darfield, BARNLEY, S73 9AE.

G4, GM4 etc (Except GW4). M0ZAK. 6 Central Ave, SHEPHERD, LE12 9HP.

G2, G5, G6, G8 (Except for Wales) and **ALL special** (GB etc) calls to M0BPT. 38 Wheatley St, WEST BROMWICH, B70 9TJ.

All members in Wales. GW0SGG. 14 Heather Cresc, Sketty, SWANSEA, SA2 8HE

Pre-paid postal subscriptions

EU/DX Members: IRCs, UK Banknotes or US dollars to M0AVW. The Club will provide envelopes. Any excess over subs from non-UK members will be regarded as QSL postage unless otherwise advised.

GREETINGS

The season is changing rapidly now and we also find the HF bands opening up with some nice DX contacts. We still have the anomaly that over the weekend whilst both 15m and 10m may be well open (JA and others to the

East as well as US and the West), weekdays present us with the usual empty vista. Can all those contest operators really be lying doggo until the next numbers game comes along?

A note that G0FVS is Jim and not Peter as referred to last month in 'The Blue Uniform'. Jim must be his on-air name since he has clearly signed my copy with 'Peter'. Please also note that until later correction, the listing contained two members with the number 09856. This more due to my lousy handwriting than sticky fingers - the correct allocations being 09855= M0KWV 09856=M0TWA. Info was otherwise correct.

Despite the conditions, there is a fair amount of snail-mail traffic flowing in both directions across the pond in the shape of small packages bearing reciprocal QSLs. Neither Chuck (M0AVW) nor his counterpart Stan (K4UK) being permitted to allow grass to grow underfoot. Having failed to find the main target (KN0WCW) during the C2C, it appeared a couple of days later signing /5 from Texas so that, together with a few more US members, it added weight to the next bundle. Hi.

The LA3 station shifted the bar up to S9+20db whilst hunting on 20m so it was quite a surprise to find that he was running a modest 5W albeit with a 3 ele yagi. Admittedly, my beam was to the US at the time and therefore somewhat in the right direction but I don't think it would have made much difference. Prior to that, VA3BWT was 589 whilst next door in Michigan a dipole yielded only 439 and his neighbour by only 50 miles or so registered 599 with a vertical. Amazing how conditions can be so discriminating.

EMAIL BOUNCERS

This is becoming a real and unnecessary chore. Advising additional DX activity following Keynote resulted in the following bouncers from UK/EU:

DK1AR, DL1AVD, DL5SE, DL7ATL, G0FDJ, G0FIP, G0FOD, G0HAU, G0STE, G0WHO, G3MYZ, G3PNF, G3VLU, G3WNI, G3WQY, G3YJY, G3ZFZ, G4KGF, G4KGG, G4UHM, G4YHN, G4YRS, G5LP, G10BEY, GM0VIT, GM4BAE, GW4BVJ, GW8NNC, M0BZG, M0BZG, M0CPP, M3CRD, M5AAQ, MW0ATG, MW0CVT, ON4LBV

They are all in alphanumeric order though some may now be corrected so please check if your call is included. Because of the way they are reported, it took a couple of hours for me to sort the wheat from the chaff. Admittedly, some were of lapsed members since although transfer to a holding file for these is automatic via a command file, access to the address book is fraught with problems and I cannot always remember to check. If your call is included in this lot then please email me with your correct address.

Some of the failures were due to web-based ISPs such as qsl.net so if you are using these then your **REAL** address would be very much appreciated.

EUCW Fraternising CW QSO Party 2003

This year's EUCW Fraternising CW Party will be held on 15-16th November 2003. Although there is a contest element in the sense that certificates are awarded to top performers, its real purpose is to give members of EUCW clubs the opportunity to meet each other and to demonstrate that amateur Morse is still alive and well. In fun events like this it's more important to take part (and send in an entry) than to win!

Look out for members of the following EUCW clubs: AGCW-DL (Germany); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CFT (Belgium); CTC (Croatia); CTCW (Portugal); EACW (Spain); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; GTC (Greece); HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC (Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (Italy); ITC (Italy); MCWG (Macedonia); OE-CWG (Austria); OHTC (Finland); OK-QRPC (Czech Republic); RTC (Germany); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (C.I.S.);

STRAIGHTKEY WEEK

G0MRH	140
G4NCU	138
M0DRK	135
M5ABN	117
G0GSY	112
M0BZU	85
M5AGL	77
M0AYI	51
G8XGQ	40
PA3AFF	34
OH7QR	25
M0CMQ	17
M5ENM	13

It was very nice to hear so many of you calling Fists SKW. Special thanks to Geo(G3ZQS) for using the HQ club call and to Roy(G4SSH) for using his own two calls and the three Scarborough Club calls during the week it was great to hear.

Congratulations to Peter G4LHI for first place, he had 202 QSO's for his 405 points. Also many thanks to all whom have sent in the returns and check logs. Some members were not aware that the club HQ call

is worth 5pts as with the USA, Australia and New Zealand HQ calls and I have amended your logs accordingly.

The next Contest is the Xmas Challenge. This is to run from 0001 on 21st Dec to 2359 on 3rd Jan 04.

All licensed freq except the WARC bands

Scoring 3pts for club stn, 2pts for a member and 1pt for a non member. 1 station per country is to be used as a multiplier of 3 times against the total country overall score. Each station can only be worked once during the challenge. England, Ireland, Wales and Scotland will count as separate countries for the Challenge. Logs to be divided into countries worked with Total points for each country then a total overall score.

Logs to include Call/ Date/Time/Name/QTH/Fist No or NM/Points.

Entries to be received by 20th Jan 04. By Post or E Mail.

The challenge is open to all members.

This challenge as with all the contests are ment to be friendly and fun not just for a rubber stamp QSO. For those who do not wish to take part in these contests it is worth remembering that it is a good time to meet other members and a good chance to add to your score for the various awards you can claim and it gives points to those taking part.

Again Very many thanks to you all for your support, De Bob M5AGL.

K6DF BACK IN HARNESS

Our awards manager Dennis, K6DF, has been spending some time with his daughter in Germany and returned home early October. There will be a further visit some time next year as the young lady is intent upon presenting her parents with their first grandchild and on that occasion Dennis is hoping to make a quick visit to the UK when he will likely take advantage of a long standing invitation to spend a night or two aboard HMS Belfast. I am sure he will let us know in plenty of time.

CHANGESTO G0JLX ROUTINE

Previously Andy warned us about necessary changes to his QRS transmissions from his temporary QTH in Epsom. In the interim period however it appears he has been head-hunted and will be starting in a new job as of December. This means that although he will still be moving to a new temporary location, it will only be for about one month and from that point onwards, because of the location of his new employers, (a well known name in amateur HF circles) it will no longer be necessary to be away from home and he can commute daily. This presents a different set of problems regarding the practice

CW sessions he has been running for the last few months since at home he does not have any suitable antennas. Some work needs to be done to convince his elderly neighbour that whatever antennas he erects will not fry her innards. The W3EDP will be moved shortly to the new Epsom QTH where he will continue with the transmission periods noted in previous Keynotes.

C2C RESULTS

Conditions on this side of the pond were far from ideal for this event though in the wide open spaces that represents the USA, just about every band was being utilised with good results.

The following was recently published on the US reflector: *Geo, who operated #1 club station GX0IPX, commented that conditions were very poor on 15 meters. "In fact, the wheels came off after about 30 minutes and by that time, 20m was nbg due to the noise level." I'll leave it to your imagination what 'nbg' means! Hi hi* Individual scores were reported but below are the scores resulting from club activity: *(scores listed here, deleted for space, and because they are printed elsewhere in the N. A. part of the KN)*

Most of you I am sure will recognise the call W1AW as that of the ARRL HQ station and as I remarked previously, it was disappointing that KN0WCW was not included in the list during the contest.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

GM3OAV. Doug is sans antennas for a while since his house is sprouting scaffolding during a re-roofing exercise. Tnks for the good wishes Doug. **G4UIA.** Derek is pleased to report that he is very impressed by the quality of CW from most of the members heard. He is currently more of a listener than an active brass pounder and having found a picture of his late mentor 'Pop' Seymour who was presented with an award for his efforts in Morse tuition is basking in a flood of memories. Also discovered a type 'D' still in its box, suitably mounted with an inscription from RAF Locking from way back at the Jubilee. Now that's a real find mate! **I2VRF.** Talking of happy discoveries, Giancarlo photo-copied an article complete with aeronautic chart from July 1919 of the airship R34 cataloguing the coastal stations contacted during her trans-atlantic trip of that year. The item details two transmitters carried; one a CW valve set (Service type 15) for long range work and the other a Marconi spark setup. A photograph of this airborne monster is sadly unsuitable for scanning. Now if only we had the printers proof copy. It would surely be worth a Euro or two? **GM3HEN.** Our Tony has not been living up to his suffix there being little 'cackling' during the past year. Intends to rectify this asap but in the meantime, walking, running and exploring the magnificent mountains and valleys of the Isle of Arran keeps him off street corners. The new radio shack prompted him to revive his interest in black/white photography whilst a 'very large garden' keeps his back trim.

BURKIND PASO

G3SXW who operated **XT2DX** during last years **CQWW** CW DX contest has made a video available which may be of interest to those members who worked the station. Cost £10.00 from **G3SXW QTHR.**

SILENT KEYS

From his widow, notice of the passing of John Terry, **G0VZC** on 11 Oct. No additional info.
F.C. Herod, **G4DZV** on 28 August. Info also from his widow with no further info.
Advice from **G4KKI** that Colin Bird, **G0SDA** died 9 October. A particularly sad note for Bill since a strong friendship was forged following Colin's request to Bill for information about his magnetic loop.
From Grant, **G0UQF**, I learn that Gerry, **G3KPT** passed away 16 October

SEPTEMBER LADDER RESULTS

September Call	Points	Annual Call	Totals.
G4LHI 58		G4LHI	449
M5ABN 50		M0AYI	265
M0AYI 38		M5ABN	262
G3VQO 30		G3VQO	260
M0RHB 26		G0MRH	214
G0MRH 24		G4AQZ	214
HB9CHE 24		M5AGL	167
M5AGL 18		M0RHB	158
OH7QR 15		HB9CHE	129
MODRK 12		OH7QR	123
M5BRY 12		MODRK	115
M0CMQ 10		M0CMQ	85
G8XGQ 6		M5BRY	40
G8XGQ	28		
G0SOP	24		
GW0SGG	17		
M3GBT	13		
G0XAH	10		

Conditions again came into play with other contests on the bands and Peter **G4LHI** topped the score again. In the annual totals there is close competition for the placings With Glenn **M0AYI** just ahead of Peter **M5ABN** and Les **G3VQO**. 73 fer now de Bob **M5AGL**.

WHAT OF THE FUTURE

Whilst we in the UK are obliged to sit on our hands because the R.A. has ordained that it is going the way of no-code irrespective, over in the States the arguments still rage. Nancy amongst others has submitted a petition to the FCC which calls not only for the retention of a CW requirement but also a stiffening of the technical standards and an end to the practice of immediate re-takes for failed elements together with, among other things; the retention of the Novice CW Sub-bands
Her petition will be allocated a R.M. number together with others and be discussed hopefully in a fair and balanced way.

What can we on this side of the pond do? Well - we can sit on our muscles and do nothing and watch the erosion of the CW allocation of band space or we can take an active stance in encouraging the hitherto disinterested 'B' class licencees to look at their options and realise that without CW they are missing out on more fun than they dreamed possible.

Long time member will have known me to utter this on previous occasions so it is with apologies that I repeat: **"FISTS is NOT about FISTS. It is about MORSE"** and it is for this reason before any others that we must do what we can to sustain interest in the mode.

Ideally, there should still be facilities at all rallies and other amateur radio gatherings to set a Morse test at their preferred speed in friendly, uncompromising surroundings. There needs to be a carrot; an incentive. I would be quite happy to provide certificates to further this end but we have to have a presence be it FISTS or others. If you are planning to be present at such a venue, please ask the organisers if they would be prepared to put a room on one side for this purpose and sound out your local friends with the possibility of getting a team together. It need not be difficult. Proficiency in a group of speeds from 5 to 20 wpm is the objective and this is just plain simple reading skill. Nothing spectacular - contests or handling of pileups is for the practicing CW user - not the beginner. so we should not be preaching to the converted!

I would appreciate your thoughts and suggestions on this subject people so please give it some thinking time. I already have interest from several sources including GM3UWX who was a part of the examiners team.

SPECIAL FOR ARMISTICE DAY

It arrived here via Tony, G4FAI who is no more Francophonic than myself but the email seemingly refers to CW activity from club station ON5CFT on 11 November.

THOUGHTS

There is usually a contest was running over the weekend and I am fully aware that most of you regard these as a curse rather than a blessing. It is no big secret that I do not care for them myself and under normal circumstances would find something else to do than sit at the rig. The WARC bands however offer us an avenue of escape and there is always a healthy number of like minded folks taking advantage of their contest free status.

Contests do however populate the bands with CW which I suppose is something we should be grateful for and one of our members commented that everything is the wrong way round and that the WARC bands should be reserved for contests leaving the remaining allocations free for 'normal' amateur activity. As appealing as it sounds it is unlikely to happen but 30m in particular is always worth checking. Even during contests, you will find pile-ups there as some juicy DX stations make their appearance. A further interesting point of view was that the RA had slipped up badly with the no-code SSB activity by not recognising that 40m (at least for some time on this side of the pond) is a restricted band which will inevitably lead to downward pressure from all those ex class 'B' operators especially when the band represents the highest useable frequency. The problem here though is that even if the UK restricted 40m access to existing class 'A' licences, it is unlikely that other European countries would follow the lead.



ULTRA SHORT ANTENNA

Claude, HB9OX, sent this picture of his ultra short antenna per DL7PE.

Many of you may remember an antenna that comprised some 7 empty beer cans. This was an absolute joy to construct since it first demanded that the beer cans be emptied. This however as you can see is comprised of bean tins soldered together a rather less joyful chore with the possible consequences of flatulence. Joking aside, it has brought a lot of interesting activities on 40m and the original article by DL7PE is to hand here in the form of a .pdf file which those of you receiving the e-keynote from Andy will readily be able to display.

Its total length can be gauged by comparing the number of cans used against the height of the said containers and for higher frequencies may be as little as 1 foot.

DL7PE put in a lot of hard thinking and experimenting before he got this one right which is explained in the .pdf file and has been used with quite good results from the balcony of a flat.

It is choke fed using the inner of coaxial cable at the choke, the screen serving as a counterpoise and the radiation resistance is calculated to be in the order of 30 ohms. DL7PE claims a complete absence of interference with television receivers located in the near vicinity which offers the same desirable qualities for which the magnetic loop is renowned.

It is hardly one-shot-and-go but once constructed, tuning and obtaining an acceptable VSWR is simply a matter of adjusting the position of the final couple of turns of the coil.

Well, it certainly struck me as being very interesting and of course, for the flat dweller could make the difference between QRT and QRV.

THE DX STUFF

Nov 2/10, Liechtenstein, HB0
Nov 9/23, Azores, CU2
Nov 14/30, St. Martin, FS
Nov 19/Dec 01, Tunisia, TS7N
Nov 22/29, Micronesia, V63
Nov 23/Dec 07, E. Kiribati, T32
Nov 25/Dec 03, Vietnam, XV2PO
Nov 26/Dec 17, Aruba, P4
Dec 15/11, Galapagos, HC8

THE IRAQI CONNECTION

Nancy advises me that Steve, (AB8CR) #06130 has been serving with the WV National Guard in Iraq since April/03.

LEARNERS

How many are being taught CW in a totally wrong way? It is a few years since I asked myself that question and it came back to me sharply following a phone call for some technical info from an established Class B user whose territory hitherto had been exclusively 2m. He was planning some HF band activity so it was perhaps excusable that I raised the subject of CW with him. Yes - he had it all written down on a sheet and he did remember a few of the characters "dot dash is A, dash dash dash is O" and it was at this point that I stopped him.

How can you possibly learn Morse if you have to stop and count the elements in each character? The blind man who reads Braille doesn't count the number of raised dots beneath his finger tips. Our current Home Secretary would be hard pressed to assimilate any information if it were so. He feels a shape - a complete entity. Morse is exactly the same since there is a 'shape' for each character. 'A' is dit dah, 'O' is dah dah dah. and so on. It was difficult to believe that no one had pointed this out to my caller.

"If I say to you 'Tango Alpha Bravo Lima Echo' you would have no difficulty in formulating the word Table and in just the same way, when I hear 'Dah Ditdah Dahditditdit Ditdahditdit Dit' I also read 'Table'. You follow?"

There was a brief pause and the answer was "Ooooh - yes".

So who gave him a layout of the Morse alphabet in such an utterly unsuitable manner? but more to the point, how many other folks are attempting to make sense of a perfectly straightforward representation of the alphabet in such a way that they have to undertake two processes in order to make it possible? The first to assimilate the number/order of elements and the second to rank the result according to a table which strays so sadly from logic. Grrrrr! Now where did I put those aspirins?

FINALE

Almost went into a flat spin when I realised that December and Christmas was almost upon us. This being the first occasion when I have not actually printed Keynote myself, a problem was envisaged. However, the printer will still be available at the end of this month (November) so I can circulate a December Keynote but in line with normal practice, I shall be having a bit of a break over Christmas and New Year so following December, the next Keynote will be February.

To answer many queries, Ivy was released from hospital mid October. A little frailer than she was with a tendency to moan about my abysmal dress sense. The main problem faced by the staff of the residential home now is getting her back into the habit of eating! Meanwhile it is to be hoped that those of you of a 'certain' age will, like myself be arranging for the anti-flu jab. Those perishing needles seem to get larger each time and the one used last year took on the characteristics associated with horses and veterenary assistants. What am I in for this time I wonder? Now that the bands are getting back to something approaching 'normal' there should be considerably more transatlantic activity in evidence but please don't forget those of us who are rag chewers by nature and will still be looking for someone to insult on 80/40. Hi.

73/88 people. Have a super month and stay sober.

Geo

FISTS CW CLUB APPLICATION

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If this is a renewal, or you have

had a FISTS number please check here

☐

Callsign _____

Name on the Air _____

Last Name _____

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◇ no

Email address: _____

How did you hear about FISTS? _____

Interests:

Contesting ◇	QRP ◇	Homebrewing ◇
Antenna experimenting ◇	Traffic Nets ◇	QRQ ◇
Wallpaper Chasing ◇	Classic Rigs ◇	Nets ◇
Code Buddies ◇	Rag Chewing ◇	DXing ◇

Please mail application, along with \$15 yearly dues (*except for family members and under 17= free/ college students \$10*) to Nancy Kott WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047

Checks payable to FISTS please

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T-Shirts: We have two colors, royal blue and black. Front is printed in silver: I'm PROUD to be a KNOW CODE Ham - Back is printed in light blue: Join the Code Crusade <http://www.fists.org>

Sweatshirts: Gray, with the same wording on front and back, but in royal blue.

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All garments available for a limited time in S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL 50/50 cotton/poly

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2 sweats, one polo and one T. = \$4 + \$2 + \$2.50 + \$1 = \$9.50 for postage.

Canadian and other non-US FISTS, contact Irene for correct postage amounts.

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***GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself, with your face about the size of a quarter, to Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

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